REPORT

OF THE

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

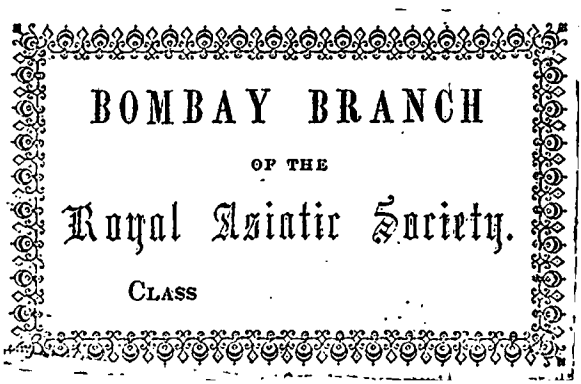
FOR THE

YEAR 1860-61.

PRESENTED TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON THE 24th SEPTEMBER, 1861.

00133531

Bombay:
PRINTED FOR THE CHAMBER BY
CHESSON & WOODHALL,
AT THE ALLIANCE PRESS.
1861.



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BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

ESTABLISHED 22ND SEPTEMBER 1836.

List of Members.

MESSRS. RITCHIE, STEUART, & Co.
„ WILLIAM NICOL & Co.
„ ROBERT STRONG & Co.
„ EWART, LATHAM, & Co.
„ CARDWELL, PARSONS, & Co.
„ WALLACE & Co.
„ GREY & Co.
„ W. AND A. GRAHAM & Co.
„ PEEL, CASSELS, & Co.
„ A. H. HUSCHKE & Co.
„ LYON, BROTHERS, & Co.
„ G. S. KING & Co.
„ MARTIN, YOUNG, & Co.
„ FINLAY, SCOTT, & Co.
„ VOLKART, BROTHERS.
„ MACINDOE, ROGERS, & Co.
„ RENNIE, SCOVELL, & Co.
„ CAMPBELL, MITCHELL, & Co.
„ LAWRENCE Co.
„ LEGGATT & Co.
„ WM. SIM & Co.

MESSRS. KILLICK, NIXON, & Co.
„ LECKIE & Co.
„ A. C. BRICE & Co.
„ S. BURSTALL & Co.
„ DADABHOY HORMUSJEE CAMA & Co.
„ ROBINSON & Co.
„ STEARNS, HOBART, & Co.
„ JOHN TANNER & Co.
„ W. C. SILLAR & Co.
„ COMBER, SON, & Co.
„ J. P. CORNFORTH & Co.
„ NASMYTH, MACDONALD, & Co.

P. & O. S. N. COMPANY.
COMMERCIAL BANK OF INDIA.
CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LONDON, AND CHINA.
CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.
AGRA AND UNITED SERVICE BANK.

Retiring Committee.

GEORGE LORD, Esq., *Chairman.*
JAMES N. FLEMING, Esq., *Deputy Chairman.*
J. G. VOLKART, Esq.....
HENRY SCOTT, Esq.....
R. P. NIXON, Esq..... } *Members.*

Committee for 1861-62.

JAMES N. FLEMING, Esq., *Chairman.*
MICHAEL H. SCOTT, Esq., *Deputy Chairman.*
R. HANNAY, Esq.....
JAMES BEVIS, Esq.....
W. F. STEARNS, Esq..... } *Members.*

MESSRS. WILLIAM NICOL & Co., *Treasurers.*
H. BROOKE, Esq., *Secretary.*
MUCKOONDROW BHAWOO, *Clerk.*

RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

REVISED AND ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THE 19TH SEPTEMBER 1851.

I. THAT the object and duties of the Chamber shall be to encourage a friendly feeling and unanimity among commercial men on all subjects involving their common good ; to promote and protect the general mercantile interests of this Presidency ; to collect and classify information on all matters of general commercial interest ; to obtain the removal, as far as such a society can, of all acknowledged grievances affecting merchants as a body, or mercantile interests in general ; to receive and decide references on matters of usage and custom in dispute, recording such decisions for future guidance ; and by this, and other means, assisting to form a code of practice for simplifying and facilitating business ; to communicate with the public authorities, with similar associations in other places, and with individuals, on all subjects of general mercantile interest ; and to arbitrate between parties willing to refer to, and abide by, the judgment of the Chamber.

II. That all persons engaged or interested in mercantile pursuits, desirous of joining the Chamber, and disposed to aid in carrying into effect the objects of the same, shall be admitted Members by the votes of a majority of a General Meeting, as provided for in Rule III.

III. That one-third of the Firms constituting the Chamber shall be held sufficient to form any General Meeting when the

same has been regularly called together,—one partner representing a firm ; but two or more partners in one firm being present, only to count as one Member of the Chamber.

That seven clear days' notice shall, in future, be given before any resolution proposing changes in the Rules of the Chamber be brought forward.

That such notice be given in writing to the Secretary, who shall circulate it for the information of the Members of the Chamber.

IV. That the Chamber reserves to itself the right of expulsion in case of need, to be decided at a General Meeting by a majority of three-fourths of the Members present at such General Meeting duly convened.

V. The subscription of each firm, or Member of the Chamber, shall be Rupees 15 per month.*

VI. That the affairs and funds of the Association shall be managed by a Committee of Five Members, consisting of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Chamber, and three Members, to be elected annually at a General Meeting of the Chamber in the month of September. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman, as the case may be, to be *ex-officio* Chairman of the Committee, and, in their absence, the Committee to elect their own Chairman. Three to be a quorum.

VII. That no two Members of one firm shall be on the Committee at the same time.

VIII. That all questions before the Committee shall be decided by a majority, the Chairman having a second or casting vote in case of an equality of votes.

IX. That the Committee shall meet on Friday, or on such other day as may be found by them most convenient, of every week, to receive and dispose of all communications and references, and to take under their consideration, generally, all matters embraced in the objects of the Chamber ; and that their proceedings be laid on the table for the inspection of all Members, subject to such regulations as they may make.

X. That General Meetings of the Chamber be held from time

* Increased to Rs. 20 by a Resolution of the Annual General Meeting in 1856.

to time, as the Committee for the time being shall propose: that a Special General Meeting shall be called by the Chairman, or by his order, five days after the receipt of a requisition from any three firms—Members of the Chamber; but that a majority of firms, represented by one or more Members from each firm, being Members of the Chamber, be required to constitute such General Meeting; and that the Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of September, on such day as the Committee for the time being shall direct; such Meeting to be convened on a five days' notice.

XI. That the Committee be authorised to provide suitable accommodation for the meeting of the Chamber; to pay all expenses of the establishment, and to control, generally, the management of the affairs of the Chamber.

XII. That all monies or funds of the Chamber, as received, be paid into the hands of the Treasurer or Treasurers for the time being, and that the same be available by cheques signed by the Chairman, or in his absence by the Acting Chairman for the time being, and by one other Member of the Committee.

XIII. That a Secretary be appointed by a majority of Members, in such way as the Committee for the time being may point out; that it shall be the duty of such Secretary to keep the records and accounts of the Chamber, to collect subscriptions, handing the same over to the Treasurer, to conduct correspondence, and to act generally under the directions of the Committee.

XIV. That all the proceedings of the Committee be subject to approval, or otherwise, of General Meetings, duly convened.

XV. That any stranger engaged or interested in mercantile pursuits, visiting the Presidency, may be introduced as an Honorary Member, by any Member of the Chamber inserting his name in a book to be kept for that purpose; but that a residence of two months shall subject him to the rule for the admission of Members.

XVI. That an Annual Report of the proceedings be made, and copies sent to similar associations in India, China, and elsewhere.

XVII. That the foregoing Rules be added to, or altered, only by a majority of Members of the Chamber.

XVIII. That the firms whose signatures are attached be considered as acknowledging the "Bombay Chamber of Commerce," as now constituted, to represent their public and united interest.

XIX. That the foregoing Rules be copied into a book, to be kept with the records of the Chamber, and be signed by all the Members, and that copies be printed and delivered to each firm.

RESOLUTION OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING, NOV. 21, 1856.

XX. That in the event of any Member of Committee resigning or declining to serve, the remaining Members of the Committee shall fill up the vacancy.

RESOLUTION OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SEPT. 29, 1858.

XXI. That for the future all General Meetings of the Chamber shall be advertised in the Newspapers.

TONNAGE SCALE AT BOMBAY.

At a General Meeting of Merchants, held in the Offices of the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, on the 6th June 1856, convened by Circular, under the direction of the Committee of the Chamber, William Forsyth Hunter, Esq., Chairman of the Chamber, in the Chair—it was proposed by Henry Scott, Esq., of Messrs. Finlay, Scott, & Co., seconded by John Campbell, Esq., of Messrs. Campbell, Mitchell, & Co., and unanimously carried,—"That from and after the 1st January 1857, the following amended Scale be taken to regulate the Trade from Bombay and the Malabar Coast to the United Kingdom, in the absence of Special Agreement to the contrary :—

Articles.	To the Ton.
Aloes, in kegs	16 cwt.
Alum, in bags	20 do.
Annato, in cases	50 feet.
Apparel	do.
Arrowroot, in cases	do.
Assafœtida, in cases	do.
Barilla	20 cwt.
Bees'-wax, in cases	50 feet.
Betelnut, in bags	16 cwt.
Blackwood, in straight square logs	50 feet.
Do. otherwise	20 cwt.
Books	50 feet.
Borax, in cases	do.
Do. in bags	20 cwt.
Bullion	per cent.
Camphor, in cases	50 feet.
Canes, Rattans, in bundles	16 cwt.

Articles (continued).	To the Ton.
Cardamoms, in bundles	50 feet.
Cassia Lignea, Fistula, and Buds	do.
Chassum	10 cwt.
China Root, in cases	50 feet.
Cigars	do.
Cinnamon, in bales	6 cwt.
Do. in cases	50 feet.
Cloves, in cases	do.
Do. in bags or frazils	10 cwt.
Coals	20 do.
Cocoa, in bags	12 do.
Coculus Indicus, in bags	16 do.
Coffee, in cases	50 feet.
Do. in bags or frazils	16 cwt.
Coir, in bales	50 feet.
Do. in bundles or loose	6 cwt.
Do. Rope, in coils	8 do.
Colocynth, in cases	50 feet.
Colombo Root, in bags	14 cwt.
Copra, in robins	12 do.
Coral, Rough (not Specimens), in bags	20 do.
Cotton, in bales	50 feet.
Cowries, in cases	do.
Do. in bags	20 cwt.
Cubebs	12 do.
Cummin Seed, in cases	50 feet.
Cutch or Terra Japonica, in bags or baskets, unscrewed	16 cwt.
Dates, wet	20 do.
Do. dry	16 do.
Dragon's Blood, in cases	50 feet.
Ebony, square and straight	do.
Do. otherwise	20 cwt.
Elephants' Teeth, in cases	50 feet.
Do. in bundles	18 cwt.
Do. loose	20 do.
Furniture	50 feet.
Galingals	12 cwt.
Galls, in bags	16 do.
Do. in cases	50 feet.
Ginger, dry, in cases	do.
Do. in bags	12 cwt.
Grain	20 do.
Ground Nuts, shelled	16 do.
Gums of all kinds, in cases	50 feet.

Articles (continued).	To the Ton.
Gum Olibanum, in bags	16 cwt.
Hurtall, in cases	50 feet.
Hemp, in screwed bales	do.
Do. loose or in bundles	7 cwt.
Hides and Skins, in screwed bales	50 feet.
Do. loose and in small bundles	12 cwt.
Horns, Buffalo and Cow, loose	16 do.
Do. Deer, loose	8 do.
Horn Tips, of any kind	16 do.
Indigo, in cases	50 feet.
Jackwood	do.
Lac Dye, in shells or cases	do.
Linseed, in bags	18 cwt.
Mace, in cases	50 feet.
Mother-o'-Pearl, in cases	do.
Do. in bags	20 cwt.
Munjeet or Madder Root, in cases or bales	50 feet.
Do. in bundles or bags	12 cwt.
Musk, in cases	50 feet.
Myrabolams, in bags	16 cwt.
Nutmegs, in cases	50 feet.
Nux Vomica, in cases	do.
Do. in bags	16 cwt.
Oil of any kind, in casks	210 imp. gals.
Oil Seeds, Teel, Rape, Mustard, Khorassan, and Castor	17 cwt.
Opium	per chest.
Paddy, in bags	16 cwt.
Pepper, in bags	do.
Pimento	14 do.
Plumbago, in bags	20 do.
Rattans, in bundles	16 do.
Do. Ground	do.
Red Wood	do.
Rhubarb, in cases	50 feet.
Rice, in bags	20 cwt.
Safflower, in cases	50 feet.
Do. in screwed bales	do.
Do. in bags	10 cwt.
Sago, in cases	50 feet.
Sal Ammoniac, in cases	do.
Do. in bags	18 cwt.
Saltpetre	20 do.
Sandal and Sapan Wood	16 do.
Sealing-Wax, in cases	50 feet.

Articles (continued).	To the Ton.
Senna, in bags	6 cwt.
Do. in bales	50 feet.
Shells, Rough, in bags	20 cwt.
Silk, in bales	10 do.
Do. in cases	50 feet.
Soap, in cases	do.
Sugar, in bags	20 cwt.
Talc	do.
Tallow	50 feet.
Tamarinds	18 cwt.
Tea, in chests	50 feet.
Timber, Teak, Square Planks and Poon	do.
Do. Round, one-fifth off.	
Tobacco, in bales	50 feet.
Tortoise Shells, in chests	do.
Turmeric, in bags	13 cwt.
Tutenague	20 do.
Unrated Wood	14 do.
Whangees (*vide* Canes)	16 do.
Wheat	20 do.
Wines and Spirits, in casks	50 feet.
Do. in cases	do.
Wool, in screwed bales	do.
Zedoary	20 cwt.

*** The Standard Ton at Bombay for Measurement Goods shall be taken at 50 cubic feet."

Proposed by James Fleming, Esq., of Messrs. Wm. Nicol & Co., and seconded by William Trevor Roper, Esq., of Messrs. Lawrence & Co., and carried unanimously,—"That the Freight on Oil be paid on the full gauge of the Cask, ascertained at the port of discharge."

Proposed by Thomas Stock Cowie, Esq., of Messrs. Remington & Co., and seconded by John Parsons, Esq., of Messrs. Cardwell, Parsons, & Co., and carried unanimously,—"That when Freight is payable on weight, the same is to be on the Nett Weight delivered."

(Signed) W. F. Hunter,
Chairman.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

FOR THE MEASUREMENT BY CALLIPERS, UPON SHIPMENTS TO GREAT BRITAIN, OF COTTON, WOOL, HEMP, AND OTHER SCREWED AND PRESSED BALES, AT THIS PORT.

I. That Callipers shall from time to time be submitted to the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and, if found correct, shall be branded with a Stamp bearing the name of the Chamber, to indicate the same.

II. That if, from use or otherwise, any Callipers should get out of order and be objected to, the party objecting shall send the Callipers to the Chamber for examination; and should the objection be valid, the Chamber Stamp shall be defaced by the Secretary; if, however, the objection is found to be groundless, the Secretary shall give a note to that effect, and the party objecting shall be bound by his decision.

III. That any Callipers found incorrect, and on which the Stamp has been defaced, may be re-stamped after adjustment.

IV. That no measurements shall be held good, except such as are taken by Callipers bearing the Chamber's Stamp.

V. That Cotton, Hemp, Wool, and other screwed bales, shall be measured as follows, namely: the greatest length to be first ascertained, and then the Bale to be set on either end, as the Shipmaster may wish, and cross measurements to be taken at top over the lashings, excepting the knots, and as near the centre of the bale as possible. That an average of 100 bales be struck by ascertaining the actual measurement of any 10 bales, and proportionately, the Shipper selecting and measuring one-half, and the Shipmaster the other half; should, however, any dispute or difficulty arise in the selection of bales, either party to have the option of measuring the whole quantity.

VI. That all produce subject to measurement be measured within the day on which it has been ordered to be screwed, provided the order has been given by the Shipmaster or Agents of the Vessel; and that from 1st June to 15th October the same be measured at the Screws; during the remainder of the year, if required, on the Bunder, weather permitting. No Cotton, Wool, or other goods, to be measured, until a Custom House Pass has been obtained for the same.

VII. That, in the event of the Shipmaster not attending to measure at such hour as may have been appointed by him, the Agent or Agents of the Ship do empower a person to attend on his behalf, whose sanction to the measurement shall be binding upon the Shipmaster.

GENERAL RATES OF COMMISSION.

Table of General Rates of Commission chargeable in Bombay; as revised by the Chamber of Commerce, and confirmed at a General Meeting, held on the 11th February 1843.

		Per cent.
1,	On procuring freight .. .. Brokerage, when actually incurred, shall be considered a legitimate charge in ship's accounts.	5
2,	On collecting freight..	2½
3,	On tendering a vessel (if accepted) for the conveyance of troops; on the amount of the charter party...	5
4,	On shipping goods of every description, on which no commission for the purchase has been charged ..	2½
5,	On shipping treasure, bullion, and jewellery ..	1
6,	On ship's disbursements when in funds	1
7,	On ship's disbursements when not in funds ..	2½
8,	On amount of passage money, whether the same passes through the Agent's hands or not.. ..	2½
9,	On effecting insurance	0½
10,	On settling insurance losses, whether partial or total, also on procuring return of premium, exclusive of commission on receipt of cash	2½
11,	On the sale or purchase of goods of all denominations (except as under)	5
12,	On purchases of all kinds with the proceeds of goods sold, and on which a commission of 5 per cent. has been previously charged	2½
13,	On the sale or purchase of ships, houses, and lands, of opium, and of diamonds, pearls, and jewellery of all descriptions	2½
14,	On the sale or purchase of treasure or bullion ..	1
15,	On the sale or purchase of cattle	5½
16,	On goods consigned which are disposed of by outcry, or sent to a shop, on net proceeds..	5

		Per cent.
17,	On goods consigned, and afterwards withdrawn; invoice cost..	2½
18,	On guaranteeing the responsibility of person to whom goods are sold, on the amount of sale	2½
19,	On attending the delivery of contract goods to the company or individuals	2½
20,	On collecting house-rent	2½
21,	On sale or purchase of private bills of exchange ..	1
22,	On effecting remittances by bills of exchange ..	1
23,	On taking up at interest bills from the Company, exclusive of one per cent. on remitting	1
24,	On exchanging Company's securities of all descriptions, or investing money therein, and on transferring Government paper from one constituent to another	0½
25,	On surrendering or depositing in the Treasury Company's security of all descriptions	0½
26,	On procuring money on respondentia or on loan ..	2
27,	On recovering of bonds, or of bills for absentees, overdue at the time of their being placed in the possession of the Agent	2
28,	On debts when a process at law by arbitration is necessary	2½
29,	On debts when recovered by such means	5
30,	On managing the affairs of the estate for an executor or administrator	5
31,	On recovering funds from a bankrupt estate ..	2½
32,	On guaranteeing bills, bonds, or debts in general, by endorsement or otherwise	2½
33,	On bills of exchange returned noted or protested ..	1
34,	On granting and cashing letters of credit	2½
35,	On becoming security to Government or public bodies in any case	2½
36,	On depositing Government paper as security for constituents	1
37,	On receipt or payment, at the option of the Agent, of all monies not arising from proceeds of goods on which commission has been previously charged.	1
38,	In all cases where the debtor side of the account exceeds the creditor side, including the balance of interest, commission to be charged at the rate of..	1

SHIP FREIGHT INWARDS.

WITH reference to the payment of Inward Freight at Bombay when stated in Sterling, we, the undersigned Merchants, do hereby agree, that for the future, all such Freight falling due under Bills of Lading dated on or after the 1st November next, shall (in the absence of Special Agreement, *or when stated to be payable at the current rate of Exchange*) be paid and received by us at the rate of Two Shillings per Rupee.

It is understood that the Agreement dated February 1849 shall continue to regulate the payment of all Freights falling due under Bills of Lading dated previous to 31st October next.

(Signed) FORBES & Co.
„ REMINGTON & Co.
„ LECKIE & Co.
„ LEGGATT, MCKENZIE, & Co.
„ PEEL, CASSELS, & Co.
„ FINLAY, SCOTT, & Co.
„ LAWRENCE & Co.
„ A. H. HUSCHKE & Co.
„ DIROM, HUNTER, & Co.
„ STEVENS BROTHERS.
„ G. PERRY & Co.
„ W. LANGLOIS, A. LEROYS, & Co.
„ ROBERT STRONG & Co.
„ EDWARD BATES & Co.
„ GREY & Co.
„ VINAY, FILS, & Co.
„ HEYCOCK & Co.
„ WILLIAM MCHAFFIE & Co.
„ HASTINGS, HICKS, SIM, & Co.

(Signed) VOLKART BROTHERS.
„ RENNIE, SCOVELL, & Co.
„ LYON, BROTHERS, & Co.
„ WM. NICOL & Co.
„ MARTIN, YOUNG, & Co.
„ RITCHIE, STEUART, & Co.
„ MACINDOE, ROGERS, & Co.
„ CARDWELL, PARSONS, & Co.
„ W. & A. GRAHAM & Co.
„ ROBERT FRITH & Co.
„ WALLACE & Co.
„ MCCULLOCH & Co.
„ EWART, LATHAM, & Co.
„ CAMPBELL, MITCHELL, & Co.
„ W. C. SILLAR & Co.
„ KILLICK, NIXON, & Co.
„ GEORGE POLLEXFEN & Co.
„ T. R. RICHMOND.

Bombay, August, 1858.

GENERAL MEETINGS IN 1860-61.

At a Special General Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, held in the Office of the Chamber, on Tuesday the 15th January 1861, to take into consideration the Resolutions of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce on the subject of Indian Import Duties on Manufactured Goods and Twist, and for other business,—

Present,—

Andrew Grant, Esq., *Chairman*, in the Chair.
George Hamilton, Esq., *Deputy Chairman.*

Members:

John Farrar, Esq.,
W. C. Sillar, Esq.,
C. D. Leggatt, Esq.,
James Bevis, Esq.,
Thomas Bradley, Esq.,
Thomas Comber, Esq.,
Walter Cassels, Esq.,
John Cassels, Esq.,
Richard Latham, Esq.,
Michael Scott, Esq.,
William Sim, Esq.,
W. F. Stearns, Esq.,
Richard Wallace, Esq.,
W. J. Morgan, Esq.,
T. F. Gray, Esq.,
A. C. Gumpert, Esq.,
R. A. Robinson, Esq.,
J. G. Volkart, Esq.,
E. P. Repton, Esq.,
H. Brooke, Esq.,
G. Lord, Esq.,
S. Burstall, Esq.,
Gavin Steel, Esq.,
W. T. Roper, Esq.,
J. P. Cornforth, Esq., and
F. A. Palmer, Esq.

The following Resolutions were agreed to :—

Proposed by G. Hamilton, Esq., seconded by Walter Cassels, Esq., and carried unanimously,—"That this Chamber, generally concurring with the second and third Resolutions of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, authorises the Committee to co-operate in any immediate appeal to Government for the reduction of Import Duties, should the Chambers of Calcutta and Madras, in their reply to the letter now agreed to, deem such advisable."

The following is the letter referred to—No. 3 of 1861, dated 15th January.

No. 3 of 1861.

To H. W. I. Wood, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by the Committee of this Chamber to call your attention to the Resolutions passed at a Meeting of the Directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, on the 15th November last, relative to the present duties on Yarns and Manufactured Goods.

Although, doubtless, you have received a copy of these Resolutions, I append a further copy for convenience of reference.

These Resolutions have been submitted to the Chamber at large, for the opinion of the Members, and there appears a general concurrence of opinion that it is highly desirable that a representation should be made to Government, pointing out the injurious effect of the late increase of duties; but at the same time doubts are expressed by some of the Members whether, taking into consideration the great deficit in the Revenue, the present may be a suitable time to press upon Government a return to a lower scale of import duties.

The last remark applies principally to Manufactured Goods, as, respecting Yarns, there appears to be little doubt that the raising of the duty to 10 per cent. has so curtailed the Import as to render a reduction desirable even as a fiscal measure.

It appears to the Committee, that if the Indian Chambers are to move actively in support of these Manchester Resolutions, it would be highly desirable that the three Chambers of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay should be agreed in the main points of their representation to Government; and they would, therefore, be glad to be informed of your views, and, if possible, to act in concert with you in endeavouring to bring about a return to a scale of import duties more conducive to an extension of trade than that at present in force.

The recent revision of the tariff valuations at Calcutta appears to this Chamber satisfactory, and likely to obviate the objections urged against the tariff system in the first Resolution of the Manchester Chamber; and they would, therefore, not recommend any disturbance of the system at present in operation.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) H. Brooke,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 15th January 1861.

[Same to Madras Chamber.]

The following Memorial of the Committee appointed by the Shipmasters in Bombay, to concert with the Chamber such measures as may be found necessary to remedy the existing abuses in the measurement of bales, having been read,

[See Appendix I, pp. 146, 147,]

and the subject having been fully discussed, it was unanimously resolved, upon the proposition of Michael Scott, Esq., seconded by George Hamilton, Esq.,—"That this Chamber expresses its entire willingness to investigate any alleged grievances which

may be laid before it by the Shipmasters frequenting this port, and undertakes to do all in its power to remedy such grievances as may be satisfactorily proved to exist ; but, at the same time, it emphatically declares its disbelief in, and repudiates on behalf of all its Members, the wholesale charges of connivance at fraud which have been so recklessly brought against the merchants of Bombay, by statements at public meetings, and in the public newspapers."

The following Resolution was subsequently passed unanimously :—

Proposed by John Cassels, Esq., and seconded by John Farrar, Esq.,—"That there appears no objection to the captains of ships stamping bales between the ropes, but the Chamber leaves the detail of the subject to be dealt with by the Committee."

Some misapprehension having occurred respecting the meaning of the Committee in their communication to Government, dated 21st November, it was proposed by Michael Scott, Esq., and seconded by A. C. Gumpert, Esq.,—"That, as the latter para. of letter No. 125, dated 21st November last, seems somewhat obscure, the Committee of the Chamber be respectfully requested to address Government in explanation, and to reiterate the unanimous opinion of the Chamber that the Pilot service should be removed altogether from the control of the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy, and placed under the sole charge of the Master Attendant."

The firm of "Watson, Bogle, & Co.," proposed by Richard Latham, Esq., and seconded by George Lord, Esq., was, upon a ballot being taken, declared duly elected.

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his conduct in the chair, the Meeting separated.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Chamber of Commerce was held at the Office of the Chamber, on Friday the 15th March 1861, for the purpose of electing a Chairman in the place of Andrew Grant, Esq., who has left India.

Present,—

George Hamilton, Esq., *Deputy Chairman*, in the Chair.

Members :

Henry Scott, Esq.,
J. G. Volkart, Esq.,
James Bevis, Esq.,
T. F. Gray, Esq.,
C. D. Leggatt, Esq.,
A. C. Gumpert, Esq.,
M. H. Scott, Esq.,
Gavin Steel, Esq.,

W. Sim, Esq.,
R. A. Robinson, Esq.,
S. Burstall, Esq.,
Thomas Comber, Esq.,
W. T. Roper, Esq.,
Alex. Wallace, Esq.,
H. Brooke, Esq.,
W. J. Morgan, Esq.,
George Lord, Esq.,
John Campbell, Esq.,
E. P. Repton, Esq.,
John Farrar, Esq.,
J. P. Cornforth, Esq.,
F. A. Palmer, Esq.,
W. F. Stearns, Esq.,
James Wright, Esq., and
R. Strong, Esq.

The following notice convening the Meeting having been read,--

To the MEMBERS of the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed by the Committee to inform you that a Special General Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce will be held on Friday next, the 15th instant, at noon, for the purpose of electing a Chairman, in accordance with the accompanying requisition.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE, Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 11th March 1861.

To the CHAIRMAN and COMMITTEE of the
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, Bombay.

GENTLEMEN,—Mr. Grant, the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, having left India, the office of Chairman has become vacant ; we request, therefore, you will call a General Meeting of the Chamber, for the purpose of electing a Chairman. —We remain, &c.,

(Signed) DIROM, HUNTER, & Co.
„ RITCHIE, STEUART, & Co.
„ WM. NICOL & Co.

Bombay, 8th March 1861.

The following Resolutions were brought forward :—

Proposed by Robert Strong, Esq., seconded by Henry Scott, Esq., and carried unanimously,—"That Mr. George Hamilton be elected Chairman of the Chamber."

Proposed by T. F. Gray, Esq., seconded by A. C. Gumpert, Esq., and carried unanimously,—"That Mr. M. H. Scott be elected Deputy Chairman of the Chamber."

Proposed by A. C. Gumpert, Esq., seconded by T. F. Gray, Esq., and carried unanimously,—"That Rule No. 3 be cancelled, and the following substituted :—

"That one-third of the firms constituting the Chamber shall be held sufficient to form any General Meeting when the same has been regularly called together,—one partner representing a firm,

but two or more partners in one firm being present, only to count as one Member of the Chamber."

Proposed by M. H. Scott, Esq., seconded by James Bevis, Esq., and carried unanimously,—"That seven clear days' notice shall, in future, be given before any resolution, proposing changes in the Rules of the Chamber, be brought forward.

"That such notice be given in writing to the Secretary, who shall circulate it for the information of the Members of the Chamber."

Proposed by J. P. Cornforth, Esq., seconded by W. T. Roper, Esq., and carried unanimously,—"That a General Meeting be called at an early date, for the purpose of taking into consideration the alteration of the Rules of the Chamber."

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Meeting separated.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Chamber of Commerce was held at the Office of the Chamber, on Thursday the 4th April 1861, at noon, for the purpose of taking into consideration the alteration of the Rules of the Chamber.

Present,—

George Hamilton, Esq., *Chairman*, in the Chair.

Members :

J. G. Volkart, Esq.,
W. C. Sillar, Esq.,
R. P. Nixon, Esq.,
James Bevis, Esq.,
Henry Scott, Esq.,
T. F. Gray, Esq.,
Robert Hannay, Esq.,
W. Sim, Esq.,
Thos. Bradley, Esq.,
George Lord, Esq.,
E. P. Repton, Esq.,
James Hunter, Esq.,
John Campbell, Esq.,
M. H. Scott, Esq.,
S. Burstall, Esq.,
H. Brooke, Esq.,
Robert Strong, Esq.,
C. D. Leggatt, Esq.,
Alex. F. Wallace, Esq.,
W. J. Morgan, Esq.,
G. Healey, Esq.,
W. T. Roper, Esq.,
D. Watson, Esq.,
J. P. Cornforth, Esq., and
A. P. Bogle, Esq.

Due notice having been given of the following resolution, it was proposed by Robert Strong, Esq., and seconded by W. Trevor Roper, Esq.,—"That, in future, on occasion arising for the election of a Chairman or Deputy Chairman, Members desirous of proposing gentlemen to fill these offices shall send to the Secretary, seven clear days before the day appointed for election, the names of their nominees ; and these, with the names of the

proposers, shall be circulated at once for the information of the Members generally.

"That, at the meeting called for the purpose of electing a Chairman or Deputy Chairman, the Secretary shall read out the names of the gentlemen proposed in accordance with the above rule, and the Members present shall then vote in the usual manner; the gentlemen for whom the greatest number of votes is given being nominated to the vacant offices.

"That, as it seems desirable to secure a Committee, all the Members of which shall work together cordially and pleasantly, the gentlemen so elected to the offices of Chairman and Deputy Chairman shall be authorised to select their own Committee."

The following amendment was proposed by J. P. Cornforth, Esq., and seconded by Clement D. Leggatt, Esq.,—"That the last paragraph of the Resolution be omitted, and the words 'and Committee' be added after the words 'Chairman or Deputy Chairman' in the other paragraph."

The amendment was put to the vote and lost, after which the original resolution was carried, but by a majority insufficient to alter the Rules: the resolution therefore became of none effect.

The Meeting then separated, after a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Chamber of Commerce was held in the office of the Chamber, on Wednesday, the 10th April 1861, at noon.

Present,—

George Lord, Esq., in the Chair.

J. G. Volkart, Esq.,
James Fleming, Esq.,
C. D. Leggatt, Esq.,
J. P. Cornforth, Esq.,
H. D. Cartwright, Esq.,
W. Sim, Esq.,
James Bevis, Esq.,
W. C. Sillar, Esq.,
W. T. Roper, Esq.,
D. Watson, Esq.,
John Farrar, Esq.,
Henry Scott, Esq.,
R. P. Nixon, Esq.,
Thomas Bradley, Esq.,
A. C. Gumpert, Esq.,
R. Angus, Esq.,
A. F. Wallace, Esq.,
J. Rich, Esq.,
R. A. Robinson, Esq.,
A. P. Bogle, Esq., and
W. J. Morgan, Esq.

After the letter calling the Meeting, and that from Messrs. Campbell, Mitchell, & Co., tendering their resignation, had been

read to the Meeting, the following Resolutions were brought forward :—

Proposed by James Fleming, Esq., and seconded by W. C. Sillar, Esq.,—"That this Chamber has received, with the deepest regret, the resignation of so many influential Members ; and being strongly of opinion that the step has been taken in misapprehension of the feelings of the Chamber on the merits of the discussion at the late General Meeting, would venture a hope that the seceding Members will reconsider the step taken, and withdraw their resignation."—Carried unanimously.

Proposed by A. C. Gumpert, Esq., and seconded by R. Angus, Esq.,—"That the Secretary be directed to send a Report of this Meeting to those firms who have sent in their resignations."—Carried unanimously.

Proposed by H. D. Cartwright, Esq., and seconded by W. T. Roper, Esq.,—"That the thanks of the Meeting be given to Mr. Lord for his able conduct in the chair."

The Meeting then separated.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Chamber of Commerce was held in the Office of the Chamber, on Thursday, the 18th April 1861, at noon, for the purpose of electing a Chairman and Deputy Chairman in the room of George Hamilton, Esq., and Michael Scott, Esq., resigned.

Present,—

H. D. Cartwright, Esq., in the Chair.

J. G. Volkart, Esq.,
C. D. Leggatt, Esq.,
W. C. Sillar, Esq.,
James Fleming, Esq.,
Henry Scott, Esq.,
R. Latham, Esq.,
W. Sim, Esq.,
James Bevis, Esq.,
R. P. Nixon, Esq.,
A. F. Wallace, Esq.,
R. A. Robinson, Esq.,
W. J. Morgan, Esq.,
W. T. Roper, Esq.,
George Lord, Esq.,
Thos. Bradley, Esq.,
A. P. Bogle, Esq.,
J. Achenbach, Esq.,
H. Somerville, Esq.,
J. Rich, Esq., and
F. A. Palmer, Esq.

The Secretary, Mr. Brooke, being absent on account of ill health, Mr. Sillar was requested to act in his room.

After the letter calling the Meeting was read, the following Resolutions were passed unanimously :—

Proposed by A. F. Wallace, Esq., and seconded by James Bevis, Esq.,—"That George Lord, Esq., be elected Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, in the room of George Hamilton, Esq., resigned, and that James Fleming, Esq., be elected Deputy Chairman of the Chamber, in the room of M. H. Scott, Esq., resigned."

Proposed by R. P. Nixon, Esq., and seconded by J. Rich, Esq., —"That the thanks of the Meeting be given to Mr. Cartwright, for his able conduct in the Chair."

The Meeting then separated.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Chamber of Commerce was held in the Office of the Chamber, on Thursday, the 23rd May 1861, at noon, for the purpose of electing a Chairman and Deputy Chairman, in the place of George Lord, and J. N. Fleming, Esqrs., resigned.

Present,—

H. D. Cartwright, Esq., in the Chair.

James Bevis, Esq.,
C. D. Leggatt, Esq.,
— Drynan, Esq., (King & Co.)
John Farrar, Esq.,
J. Achenbach, Esq.,
W. Sim, Esq.,
James Hunter, Esq.,
R. Maxwell, Esq.,
— Price, Esq.,
R. P. Nixon, Esq.,
— Macdonald, Esq.,
Alex. Wallace, Esq.,
George Lord, Esq.,
S. Burstall, Esq.,
John Campbell, Esq.,
J. N. Fleming, Esq.,
M. H. Scott, Esq.,
H. Brooke, Esq.,
W. Graham, Esq.,
A. P. Bogle, Esq., and
G. Healey, Esq.

The circular calling the Meeting having been read, the following propositions were brought forward :—

Proposed by Alexander F. Wallace, Esq., and seconded by James Bevis, Esq.,—"That George Lord, Esq., be re-elected Chairman of the Chamber."—Carried *nem. con.*

Proposed by A. F. Wallace, Esq., and seconded by James Bevis, Esq.,—"That James N. Fleming, Esq., be re-elected Deputy Chairman of the Chamber."—Carried *nem. con.*

Proposed by George Lord, Esq., and seconded by M. H. Scott, Esq.,—"That a Committee be appointed to draw up a Report embodying the views of the Members of the Chamber on Mr.

Beadon's and Mr. Sconce's Bills relating to Contracts, and that a General Meeting be held at 3 o'clock on Tuesday next, the 28th instant, for the purpose of receiving and discussing the same."

Proposed by R. P. Nixon, Esq., and seconded by Julius Achenbach, Esq.,—"That Mr. George Lord, Mr. James Fleming, and Mr. H. Scott, be appointed to act as the Committee proposed in the last Resolution."—Carried unanimously.

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Meeting separated.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Chamber of Commerce was held on Tuesday, the 28th May 1861, for the purpose of receiving and discussing the Report of the Committee appointed to report on Mr. Beadon's and Mr. Sconce's Bills relating to Contracts.

Present,—

George Lord, Esq., *Chairman*, in the Chair.

Members:

Henry Scott, Esq.,
R. P. Nixon, Esq.,
James Bevis, Esq.,
Thos. Bradley, Esq.,
A. P. Bogle, Esq.,
Thos. Comber, Esq.,
D. Watson, Esq.,
R. Hannay, Esq.,
John Campbell, Esq.,
John Cassels, Esq.,
H. Brooke, Esq.,
— Macdonald, Esq.,
James Hunter, Esq.,
M. H. Scott, Esq.,
J. N. Fleming, Esq.,
S. Burstall, Esq.,
Henry Scott, Esq.,
H. D. Cartwright, Esq.,
Richard Wallace, Esq.,
R. P. Robinson, Esq.,
H. Brooke, Esq.,
Julius Achenbach, Esq.,
G. Healey, Esq.,
H. Somerville, Esq., (Lyon, Brothers,) and
C. D. Leggatt, Esq.

After the following Report was read from the chair, Resolutions were proposed as follows:—

Proposed by H. D. Cartwright, Esq., and seconded by W. C. Sillar, Esq.,—"That the Report of the Committee on Mr. Beadon's and Mr. Sconce's Bills be adopted, and that the thanks of the Chamber be tendered to the Committee for their attention to the subject."—Carried *nem. con.*

Proposed by M. H. Scott, Esq., and seconded by C. D. Leggatt, Esq.,—"That this Chamber has observed, with much regret, that

the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India has summarily ordered the withdrawal, by the Government of India, of any Bill having for its object the punishment, criminally, of fraudulent breaches of contract; and that this Chamber views with great alarm the exercise of so arbitrary a power, as calculated to destroy altogether the independence and usefulness of the Legislative Council."—Carried unanimously.

Proposed by H. Scott, Esq., and seconded by R. P. Nixon, Esq.,—"That a copy of the Report which has just been read, and of the Resolutions passed at this meeting, be transmitted to Government, with a request that the same be forwarded to the Governor General in Council."—Carried unanimously.

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Meeting separated.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Chamber of Commerce was held at their Office, at noon, on Tuesday, the 24th September 1861.

Present,—

George Lord, Esq., *Chairman*, in the Chair.
J. N. Fleming, Esq., *Deputy Chairman.*

Members:

W. C. Sillar, Esq.,
James Bevis, Esq.,
John Campbell, Esq.,
H. D. Cartwright, Esq.,
H. Somerville, Esq.,
M. H. Scott, Esq.,
T. Comber, Esq.,
— Price, Esq.,
A. P. Bogle, Esq.,
Richard Wallace, Esq.,
H. Brooke, Esq.,
R. Hannay, Esq.,
W. Nixon, Esq.,
Thos. Bradley, Esq.,
W. Sim, Esq.,
R. Latham, Esq.,
James Hunter, Esq.,
— Macdonald, Esq.,
W. Graham, Esq., and
J. Achenbach, Esq.

The notice convening the Meeting and the Annual Report of the Committee having been read, the following Resolutions were brought forward:—

Proposed by James Hunter, Esq., seconded by Richard Wallace, Esq., and carried unanimously,—"That the Report now read be approved of, and printed for general information, together with the documents therein referred to."

Proposed by Richard Latham, Esq., seconded by W. Graham, Esq., and carried unanimously,—"That the Members of the Committee retiring are entitled to, and do receive, the thanks of the

Chamber, for their attention to its interests during the year of office now expired."

Proposed by H. D. Cartwright, Esq., seconded by John Campbell, Esq., and carried unanimously,—"That the Committee for the ensuing year shall be as follows :—

James N. Fleming, Esq., *Chairman.*
Michael H. Scott, Esq., *Deputy Chairman.*

R. Hannay, Esq.....
James Bevis, Esq..... } *Members.*
W. F. Stearns, Esq.....

Proposed by Michael H. Scott, Esq., seconded by H. D. Cartwright, Esq., and carried unanimously,—"That a Committee consisting of James N. Fleming, Esq., George Lord, Esq., and John Campbell, Esq., be appointed to draw up a Memorial to Government, on the subject of the exemption of the Town and Island of Bombay from the operation of Act XXI. of 1861, whereby the Income Tax returns for last year were generally throughout India constituted those for the present."

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Meeting separated.

ANNUAL REPORT.

REPORT.

Your Committee have now to report on the subjects which have engaged the attention of the Chamber during the past year.

COTTON CULTIVATION.

In the last Report, attention was called to the circumstance that Government had resolved upon the total discontinuance of experiments in Cotton Cultivation, and a hope was expressed that private individuals would continue to engage in these undertakings with extended success. The numerous applications for seed to the Chamber, as well as to the Honorary Agents of the Cotton Supply Association, show that the anticipation of interest on the part of the public has been fully borne out; but as regards the ultimate result of the experiments on any considerable scale, your Committee are yet unable to say much. The only report of successful cultivation upon which reliance can be placed has been that of Mr. W. M. Hearn, at Belgaum, where a very fair crop of Egyptian Cotton has been raised. Other more consider-

able experiments, particularly one in Canara, where eighty acres are now under cultivation, are being prosecuted by Europeans; but it is as yet too early to express any decided opinion of the probable result.

Great credit is due to Government for the evident solicitude with which they regard this important subject, and the Resolutions of Government, referring to the improvement of roads in the Cotton Districts, and offering prizes for the production of Cotton, are calculated to promote the object in view. As regards the prize offered for the present season in this Presidency, it appeared to your Committee, that as the great bulk of the fields of Cotton were already sown, but little competition in the *culture* of the staple could ensue; they therefore suggested to Government such a modification of the prizes as, for this year, would be calculated to promote the more careful picking, cleaning, and *marketing* of the crop; and recommended, further, that in order effectually to stimulate superior general cultivation for the following year, 1862-63, there be, instead of one, several graduated prizes given. Government have replied that they will consider the Committee's proposal, and communicate their decision as soon as arrived at.

The Chamber is aware that an attempt was made by Mr. W. C. Sillar, as its representative, to penetrate into the Cotton Districts of Berar in April last; but that, owing to numerous delays, the season became too far advanced to admit of much practical information being elicited: a second tour has since been resolved upon, to commence in October next, from which the

best results may be anticipated. The proposed visit of Mr. Haywood and Dr. Forbes to the Dharwar and adjacent Cotton Districts will have, as one of its objects, the facilitating the settlement of Europeans in some parts of the interior.

Recent events in America have invested the Indian Cotton question with unusual interest in Lancashire, and it is now found that Dharwar Sawginned American can be profitably employed in the English Mills at prices approaching, more nearly than heretofore, those paid for the produce of the States, and at an advance greater than has been established on other Indian grown Cotton. The fluctuations in its value, compared with that of Broach Cotton, have been very great; thus,—

In 1850 it was	worth	$\frac{3}{4}d.$	more.
1851 „	„	$\frac{1}{2}d.$	„
1858 „	„	$\frac{1}{8}d.$	„
1859 „	„	Same price.	
1860 „	„	$\frac{1}{4}d.$	less.
1861 „	„	$1d.$	more.

The great decline in value in 1859-60 was doubtless owing to its fraudulent adulteration with Native Cotton, and the recent improvement may be mainly attributed to the perseverance of Dr. Forbes in urging on Natives the necessity of cultivating and ginning the produce of the pure American seed. The cultivation of this description in Dharwar is rapidly extending, and there would appear to be every prospect of its dis-

placing the variety known as Native Comptah. Fair Sawginned Dharwar was in August 1859 quoted only $\frac{1}{4}d.$ above fair Comptah, while in 1861 its relative value has been $1\frac{3}{4}d.$ more.

The correspondence, containing many interesting papers, will be found in Appendix A.

COTTON-CLEANING MACHINERY.

Two effective machines have been sent to the rooms of the Chamber for exhibition; one by Messrs. Wm. Nicol & Co., on the model of Dr. Forbes's Cottage Churka, and the other, the invention of Mr. Mason, of the Fort Press Company, entitled a "Double Cotton Churka." Both appear well suited to the purpose intended, and will be found very useful to those who may engage in the experimental cultivation of Cotton. A diagram of the Double Churka will be found in Appendix A.

CULTIVATION OF TEA.

Correspondence on this subject will be found in Appendix B. Mr. H. D. Rae has obligingly promised to bring with him from Ootacamund, on his return to this city, a Ward's case containing Tea plants in a growing state. It is probable that the plants would thrive at Mahableshwur or Matheran, and residents there are invited to apply to the Chamber for young plants, which will shortly be available.

FLAX CULTIVATION.

Relating to this subject, a letter will be found in

Appendix C from the Secretary to the Indian Flax Company, who have sent an agent into the Punjaub, with the object of promoting the preparation of the article. In the Bombay Presidency there is little immediate prospect of Flax being grown, at least by Natives, as they are content with the profits which they are deriving from the cultivation of Cotton, Seeds, and Grains, with which they are conversant, and to which the soil and climate are so well suited.

SAMPLES OF PRODUCE.

Several samples of Wool, Cotton, Silk fibre, and Indigo, have been received and reported on, but do not call for any particular comments: they are preserved for reference or inspection.

TRADE REPORT.

Reports on the Trade of Kurrachee, Aden, New Zealand, &c., have been received, and may be seen at the offices of the Chamber. A list of the various pamphlets, &c. received during the year will be found in Appendix P.

MONTHLY TRADE RETURNS.

A reference to the Chamber has been made on the subject of the proposed Imperial Trade Returns for all India, and your Committee have expressed their willingness to co-operate as far as practicable. The subject is still under the consideration of the Supreme Government. The correspondence will be found under letter D.

OVERLAND MAIL COMMUNICATION.

The Chamber is aware that, early in the present year, the Director General of the Post Offices submitted a proposal to constitute Bombay the port for landing and despatching all the mails between India and Europe, by which means Bombay would have enjoyed the great benefit of a weekly service. Your Committee, however, having elicited the views of Members generally, felt they would not be justified in recommending the immediate adoption of the proposed plan, which, until railway communication has much further progressed, would subject the communities of Calcutta and Madras to great irregularity and uncertainty in the receipt of overland letters. A Committee of inquiry into the postal system has been proposed in Calcutta, but as existing arrangements will be in a great measure superseded when the railways are connected, or nearly so, it does not appear that much practical benefit would result from such an inquiry at present. The correspondence will be found in Appendix E.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

The alleged dishonesty of the employés in this important department of the public service led to the holding, on the 24th February last, of a public meeting—numerously and influentially attended,—and at which resolutions condemnatory of the existing management of the department were adopted. Subsequent correspondence has taken place with the view of devising a remedy for the defects of the existing system,

and your Committee have suggested the formation of a secret department, distinct from the general working establishment, which would take cognisance of all alleged frauds, investigate them, and, if possible, bring them home to the instigators. See Appendix F.

RAILWAYS.

The Chamber is indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Langdon, Secretary to the G. I. P. Railway Company, for an interesting statement of the progress of the line up to a late date.

Should no unforeseen impediment occur, there will be completed by the end of 1862 :—

The Bhore Ghaut Incline..	13¼	miles.
Nassick to Chalisgaum....	87	„
Egutpoora to Bhosawul....	190½	„
	290¾	
Already opened.....	350¾	„
Total completed by end of 1862..	641½	miles.

Application has been made to the Manager of the Baroda Railway Company for similar information, but, as in former years, no statement has been furnished. See Appendix G.

WATERSIDE ACCOMMODATION.

After many years of fruitless discussion, there appears at last a fair prospect of something being done. On behalf of the Elphinstone Land Company, which

has for some years had extensive harbour frontage, an application has been made for permission to reclaim land between the seat of its present operations and the Fort. A new Company, having the same object in view, is also being inaugurated, under the title of the "Pier Company, Limited," and if the sanction of Government be obtained by either of the projectors, the merchants of the port will, doubtless, within the next few years, be provided with the convenience necessary for the carrying on of their rapidly increasing trade. At present, the want of accommodation is most pressingly felt by all, and it is absolutely necessary that Government, without longer delay, either take means to supply this want, or grant the necessary facilities to a Company willing to engage in the undertaking, prepared to guarantee the proper and timely execution of the works, and whose charges should always be subject to Government regulation.

The correspondence relating to this subject will be found in Appendix H.

PORT FUNDS AND PILOTAGE.

The administration of this Fund and the Pilotage system have received the attention of the Committee, but as no definite complaints have been lodged with the Chamber, it has not been deemed expedient to re-open the question at present. See Appendix O.

MEASUREMENT OF COTTON BALES.

Prominent attention was called to this subject during the past season; irregularities, particularly in Native shipped Cotton, were much complained of, and a de-

putation of Shipmasters waited on your Committee. After a very full discussion of the question, it was agreed that, as the only means whereby to secure a fair measurement to the Shipowners, of which existing circumstances admitted, Masters should be allowed to stamp the Bales which they measure, and thus prevent fraud by substitution. The carrying out of this arrangement, however, is for the present found to be attended with very great difficulty, owing to want of room on the Bunders, an evil for which it is hoped a remedy will ere long be provided. The correspondence will be found under letter I.

FAIRS.

The mercantile transactions at the Fairs of Mhyjee and Samlajee continue on a large scale; contrasted with last year, however, they show a slight falling off, which is probably in a measure due to the Famine.

Total amount of business done		
at Mhyjee in 1861	Rs.	31,89,326
Samlajee 1860		7,24,664
	Rs.	39,13,090
Against 1859-60	Rs.	40,59,758
„ 1856-59		38,19,867

The Samlajee Fair having been discontinued during 1857 and 1858, the business of 1856 has been taken for the purpose of comparison.

As the railways extend to districts where mercantile transactions are as yet few, it might be worth the consideration of Government, whether it would be

practicable to establish fairs in the neighbourhood of stations distant from the great seats of commerce.

The reports will be found in Appendix J.

STAMP ACT.

Numerous communications have taken place between Government and the Chamber on this subject. The Act, on the whole, works satisfactorily, and with some improvements and reductions of rates which are about to be embodied in a Bill now before the Legislative Council, there seems every reason to believe that it will prove the most productive, and at the same time the least obnoxious measure that has been enacted for the necessary retrieval of the public finances. The correspondence being somewhat voluminous, and the interest attaching to it having been of a temporary character, your Committee have not thought it worth while to reproduce it in the Appendix.

The decisions of the Government of India which interest the mercantile body are the following:—

That shipping orders do not require stamps.

That receipts given to merchants by their brokers, although acting as bankers, require to be stamped.

That letters of hypothecation require to be stamped only as acknowledgments, under Article 41.

BREACH OF CONTRACT BILLS.

Government having submitted for the opinion of the Chamber the two Bills on this subject laid before the Legislative Council by Mr. Beadon and Mr. Sconce, a report on them (see Appendix K) was adopted at a general meeting held on the 28th of May 1861. The

further discussion of these Bills in the Legislative Council has not yet been proceeded with, but it is stated that the Select Committee appointed on them last week gave notice of their intention to submit their report to the Council.

IMPORT DUTIES.

At the last Annual Meeting, the Committee for the preceding year reported on the measures they had taken to prevent an extension to Bombay of the vexatious Tariff, which a few months before had been forced upon the merchants of Calcutta; and it is the pleasing duty of the present Committee to record the success that attended the efforts of their predecessors, for, not only was the dreaded application to Bombay of this most unjust measure averted, but the principles of valuation for payment of Duties, hitherto in force in Bombay, were, through the able advocacy of Mr. Spooner, adopted also in Calcutta and Madras, under a New Tariff for all India, promulgated on the 9th of November 1860. A copy of the "Customs' Consolidation" Bill, now before the Legislative Council, has been sent by Government to the Chamber, for its opinion, and is in course of circulation amongst the members.

On the 15th of January last, a special meeting of the Chamber was held to discuss the advisability of immediate agitation for a reduction of the most oppressive Duties levied on Imported Cotton Goods and Twist. The duty on the latter article, which, at the time the meeting referred to was held, was

10 per cent., has since been lowered to 5 per cent., but no reduction has been made in the rate on manufactured goods. In July last your Committee addressed His Excellency the Governor General in Council, praying for a return at once to the scale of Duties in force prior to the 14th of March 1859, viz. 3½ per cent. on Twist and 5 per cent. on Goods; and in reply to a communication from the Acting Commissioner of Customs at this port, they have addressed a second letter to the local Government on this subject, the importance of which it is impossible to overrate; for a continuance of the present excessive Duties must inevitably check the natural *expansion* of the Import Trade—will probably, indeed, result in a *diminution* of it; in either event, a consequence disastrous alike to Government as to the merchants. The correspondence on this subject will be found under letter L in the Appendix.

COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATION.

In April last, at a meeting called to consider the desirableness of altering certain of the Chamber's rules, a discussion ensued, and remarks fell to which exception was taken. A large number of influential Members tendered their resignations; but subsequently, the difference was happily arranged, and the Chamber re-established on its former footing. Letters referring to the subject will be found in Appendix M.

MR. VOLKART'S DEATH.

With deep regret, your Committee have to record the death, in May last, of one of their colleagues, Mr.

J. G. Volkart, who had, during his connection with the commerce of this city, earned the respect and attachment of its community. The year being already advanced, no successor to the vacancy in the Committee was appointed.

FUNDS OF THE CHAMBER.

In consequence of the heavy law charges incurred in the prosecution of the fraudulent shippers of rubbish, as Wool, the balance to the credit of the Chamber has been reduced to Rs. 3,857, against Rs. 5,038 on the 31st August last year.

CONCLUSION.

Your Committee, in resigning the trust with which they have been honoured, would congratulate the Chamber on the widening field of usefulness before it, and with pleasure acknowledge the attention paid by Members to the subjects that have been laid before them. To His Excellency the Governor in Council, the special thanks of the Chamber are due, for the courtesy with which its opinions and representations have been solicited and received, and for the interest that has been taken by Government in all questions of commercial importance.

Funds of the Chamber, 1860-61.

Disbursements.

Rent	Rs.	1,800	0 0
Printing		1,191	0 0
Advertisements		261	2 0
Newspapers		83	0 0
Books purchased		31	0 0
Postage Stamps		61	11 0
Stationery		114	0 0
Commission paid Treasurers		310	2 8
Office Salaries and Petty Charges		3,512	4 0
Manifests and Trade Returns:			
Salaries &c... Rs. 2,003 3 3			
Printing 2,909 4 0			
		4,912	7 3
Law Expenses		2,560	6 0
Mr. Sillar's Tour (on account)		1,000	0 0
On account of Cotton Supply Association.		172	13 9
Balance		2,943	10 5
	Rupees	18,953	9 1

In hands of Treasurers 1st September 1861	Rs.	1,778	2 5
Since paid in		1,165	8 0
	Rupees	2,943	10 5

Receipts.

Balance from last year	Rs.	5,038	10 10
Subscriptions		10,371	0 0
Sale of Manifests and Trade Returns		3,237	0 0
Sale of Report, Tonnage Scale, &c.		24	8 0
Interest received from Treasurers		282	6 3
	Rupees	18,953	9 1

Balance	Rs.	2,943	10 5
Debit of Cotton Supply Association		913	6 2
	Rupees	3,857	0 7

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.

COTTON CULTIVATION.

COTTON FROM SURAT AND BROACH.

No. 3779 of 1860.

Revenue Department.

To H. Brooke, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

Sir,—With reference to paragraph 3 of your letter No. 77, dated 6th July 1859, I am directed to forward herewith copy of one from the Revenue Commissioner Northern Division, No. 2207, dated the 4th instant, and to request that the Chamber of Commerce will favour Government with a report on the samples of cotton sent to them from Surat and Broach.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) A. D. Robertson,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 18th October 1860.

No. 2207 of 1860.

Revenue Department.

From S. Mansfield, Esq.,
Revenue Commissioner Northern Division,

To A. D. Robertson, Esq.,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Sir,—In paragraph 3 of their letter to Government,

dated 6th July 1859, copy of which was sent to this Department with Government Resolution No. 2809, dated 19th idem, the Chamber of Commerce stated as follows :—

"It is difficult to say what might be the value of pure Broach cotton if picked daily from the plants as the pods open; but the Chamber would suggest, that if practicable, the experiment might be tried with three or four acres next season. The pickings of each fourteen days should be kept separate, as they would probably last six weeks in all, and the first and last fourteen days' picking would be found inferior to that of the fourteen days in the height of the crop. Although indigenous Indian cotton has never yet been supposed equal to the middling Orleans, it is not impossible that the second fourteen days' picking would be found to come very close to the value of American. The cotton should be churkaed rather than saw-ginned."

2. I have now the honour to report, for the information of His Excellency in Council, that experiments founded upon the above suggestion were tried at Surat and Broach last season, and that samples of the cotton so raised have been furnished to the Chamber by the Collectors of those districts. The Surat samples consisted of four pickings, and the Broach ones of three; all of fourteen days each. Unfortunately, however, the crops at both places were attacked by blight.

3. The experiment at Surat cost Government Rupees 95-13-4 (ninety-five, annas thirteen, and pies four), that at Broach nothing, the charges having been defrayed from the sale proceeds of the cotton which remained after the samples were forwarded to Bombay.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) S. MANSFIELD,
Revenue Commissioner Northern Division.

Revenue Commissioner's Office, Poona, 4th Oct. 1860.

(True copies)

(Signed) A. D. ROBERTSON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 121 OF 1860.

To A. D. ROBERTSON, Esq.,
Acting Secretary to Government, Bombay.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 3779 of 1860, dated 18th October, referring to several samples of cotton picked daily from the plants under a suggestion of this Chamber, dated 6th July 1859.

The samples referred to were advised by the Acting Collector of Broach, No. 297 of 1860, and by the Collector of Surat, No. 328 of 1860, came to hand in due course, and would have been reported upon long since, had the Chamber found themselves in a position to propose some course by which the desired end of improving the general class of cotton for these districts could have been accomplished.

The samples have been examined by many Members of the Chamber, and all have agreed that the quality is from 7 to 10 per cent. superior to the quality passed by the merchants this season as fair quality of the respective descriptions, and would be worth therefore about $\frac{3}{8}d.$ to $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. more than cotton picked in the usual mode.

The Committee feel, however, that a mere declaration of this kind will have no effect whatever upon the cultivators or contractors who are interested in the trade, and they have therefore frequently taken the subject into consideration, with the view of devising some method by which the desired end might be accomplished.

It has occurred to them, that if some of the wealthier cultivators could be induced to send down a superior class of cotton, similar to these samples, some guarantee might be afforded them that the cotton would realise a proportionate price; but the almost universal tendency to adulteration and admixture of inferior qualities, which pervades the trade, appears likely to defeat this object; as, although the first parcel sent down might be equal to sample, the next parcel would be adulterated, the following still more so, until in a short time the quality would relapse to its original grade.

It is obvious that it is no part of the duty of Government officers to occupy themselves with a superintendence, however

general, of any such arrangement; and as it would not be remunerative to merchants themselves to depute agents to the districts, the Committee fear that any practical suggestion is impossible of fulfilment. They fear, therefore, that however much they may regret the circumstance, the trade must be left to its own natural development, until the Natives themselves can see it to be their own interest to send forward an improved quality. The Committee do not know what might be the extra expense of picking cotton daily from the plants, but they believe the increase in value would be from Rs. 7 to Rs. 10 per candy; which might render it worth the attention of the growers. Should the several Collectors be enabled to induce the cultivators to try the experiment upon 200 or 300 candies of cotton, it might be well to have the cotton sent down specially under a certificate from the local revenue officers, in order that attention might be directed to the parcel; and there is no doubt that merchants would willingly give an adequate price for cotton of superior quality.

The Committee have, however, but little confidence, from past experience, that the Natives will undertake the experiment with a determination to carry it out in a reliable manner; but if it could be done, it would seem to the Committee a very desirable object to be attained.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 5th November 1860.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF CULTIVATION.

No. 207 OF 1861.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to forward herewith, for submission to the Chamber of Com-

Letter from the Revenue Commissioner Southern Division, No. 1140, dated the 27th June 1860.

Letter from the Revenue Commissioner Northern Division, No. 1051, dated the 8th May 1860.
Ditto from ditto, No. 1077, dated the 10th May 1860.
Ditto from ditto, No. 1574, dated the 19th July 1860.

merce, copies of the replies received from the two Revenue Commissioners to references made to them on the receipt of your letter No. 32, dated the 10th April last.

2. The Honorable the Governor in Council regrets that the limitation which the state of the finances has compelled the Government to put upon Public Works expenditure has prevented the improvement of the roads in the Dharwar Collectorate, which are so much called for, and the utility of which His Excellency in Council fully recognises; but he hopes that these improvements will now be undertaken at an early date, with the view of connecting the cotton-growing districts of the Southern Mahratta Country with Sudasewghur, and will remove the obstacles to the development of the cotton trade with the districts of the Southern Mahratta Country, which the Chamber of Commerce complain of in the 4th paragraph of your letter.

3. I am also desired to request that you will inform the Chamber, that Government consider the time to have arrived for discontinuing all experiments for improving the growth of cotton which involve the cultivation of land under the direct supervision of their own officers. The cost already incurred in these experiments has been great, and, as observed by Mr. Mansfield, the practical utility of them is extremely doubtful; and for the reasons stated by him in paragraph 5 of his letter No. 1051, dated the 8th May last, Government are indisposed to unite with the Chamber in continuing the experiments at Dhundooka, as proposed in paragraph 9 of your letter under acknowledgment. They will, however, be glad to instruct the Collector of Ahmedabad to support and assist any experiment which the Chamber itself may undertake for the purpose of testing how far New Orleans, Sea Island, Egyptian, or any other variety of cotton can be profitably cultivated in Guzerat, in the manner suggested by Mr. Mansfield in paragraph 11 of his letter above quoted.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) A. D. ROBERTSON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 11th January 1861.

No. 1140 OF 1860.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From J. N. ROSE, Esq.,
Revenue Commissioner Southern Division,
To B. H. ELLIS, Esq.,
Secretary to Government.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your endorsement No. 1437, dated the 18th April last, forwarding copy of a letter (No. 32 of 1860) from the Secretary to the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, and calling for any remarks I may have to offer with regard to paragraphs 4 and 12 of that communication.

2. The Collector of Dharwar, to whose districts Mr. Brooke's remarks in paragraph 4 refer, states that—

"An European agency has been established at Bunkapoor, and a great deal has been done of late years to improve the roads. Good metalled roads and bridges are very desirable, and it is to be hoped that when the existing financial difficulty has been surmounted, some of the projected lines will be constructed.

"It must be borne in mind, however, that the coast navigation is closed by the 20th of May, and therefore, no amount of road-making will enable much cotton to reach Bombay before December. The great want of this part of the country is the opening of the port of Sudasewghur, where cotton would be shipped direct for Europe. This would obviate the delay complained of."

3. With regard to the 12th paragraph of the Secretary's letter, Mr. Goldfinch thinks, and I fully agree with him, that Government should be cautious in giving discretional power to their officers to expend money in making experiments. He is of opinion that any officer wishing to try experiments should be required to obtain the approval and sanction of Government before incurring any expenditure at all; and he adds that the instance of Mr. Elphinston's experiment at Rutnagherry, quoted by Mr. Brooke, is one in which a great deal of money was expended without any useful result whatever.

4. There can hardly, I think, be a question as to the inexpediency of Government taking any part in the culture

of cotton. Past experiments, and the losses Government have already sustained by them, sufficiently indicate this; and I am clearly of opinion that the ryots should be left to cultivate cotton or not upon their lands, as they may find it to their advantage or otherwise.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) J. N. ROSE,
Revenue Commissioner S. D.

Poona, Revenue Commr.'s Office, 27th June 1860.

No. 1051 OF 1860.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From S. MANSFIELD, Esq.,
Revenue Commissioner Northern Division,
To B. H. ELLIS, Esq.,
Secretary to Government, Bombay.

SIR,—I do myself the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Government Memorandum No. 1438, dated 18th ultimo, forwarding, for early report, a letter from the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, No. 32, dated 10th idem.

2. A few days before the above came to hand, I received a letter from Dr. Forbes, reporting the result of his visit to the cotton-growing districts of Guzerat; and as both these papers bear upon the same subject, I avail myself of this opportunity to reply simultaneously to paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Government Resolution No. 372, dated 27th January 1860.

3. The points to be noticed are,—

I. Completion of the experiments which were in progress during the early part of this season in the Ahmedabad Collectorate, and further trials next season, under Government supervision, the Chamber meeting a portion of the expenses.

Paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Chamber's letter, and paragraph 7 of Government Resolution.

II. Advisability of getting the several Collectors of this Presidency to get up experiments on a small scale, under their own supervision, or that of their subordinates.

Paragraph 12 of the Chamber's letter.

III. Advisability of keeping up any portion of the establishment entertained at Dhundooka, for ginning or other purposes.

Paragraph 6 of the Government Resolution.

4. With reference to the 1st point, Dr. Forbes remarks as follows:—

"As regards the experiment, I fear that no very decided results can be recorded from what has hitherto been done. At Gogo, where I had been informed that sixty beegas of New Orleans cotton were sown, I found a piece of land of about eight or ten acres, enclosed by a dry thorn hedge, but there was no appearance of any produce, nor was it quite apparent that the land had been at all prepared in the manner required for cotton cultivation.

"On further search, about two dozen plants were discovered in one spot, varying in height from one to two inches; a small space round each (made for the purpose) showed that water had been supplied, and that the seeds from which the plants had sprung must have been sown within six or eight days of the period of my visit. The locality was not a good selection for New Orleans cotton, but I think the Sea Island variety would be found to answer in it.

"At Dhundooka, the Karkoon in charge showed me a field of seventy beegas, in which American cotton had been sown in August last. The produce, which was reaped in January following, amounted only to 160lb. of seed cotton. I have taken a sample of it with me.

"Only a very small proportion of the seeds appeared to have grown, and the plants, which were thinly scattered over the whole field, might, if confined to one spot, have been sufficient for about four-fifths of an acre. Their appearance, as far as an opinion could be formed of them at that season, bore testimony of the suitability both of the soil and climate to this variety of cotton; and taking also into consideration the evident want of care that had been bestowed upon the cultivation, as evinced by the condition of the land, the return (in proportion to the number of plants) both as regards quantity and quality, would tend to strengthen this conclusion.

"In the close vicinity of this field there was another

patch of land, of about four acres in extent, sown with Egyptian cotton, to which the above remarks are also applicable, except that, owing to the seed having been sown much too late, viz. in the end of November, none of the produce had as yet ripened. A large proportion of the plants, however, were strong, luxuriant, and healthy looking, and they bore young pods in great abundance; but owing to the excessive heat of the sun at that season, the latter appeared as if they were being forced to ripen and open prematurely. For this reason, the cotton, when it is procured, will afford no criterion of the quality of staple that might have been expected from better and more seasonable cultivation.

"From my own observation, and what I could otherwise ascertain with regard to soil and climate, I believe that the abovementioned descriptions of cotton might be cultivated with advantage in the country to the west and north of the Gulf of Cambay, though they have not been found to answer upon the opposite side of its shores. At the same time, if the attempt is to be made, little good will result from sending seed to the ryots through the Mamlutdars, as I believe has already been done, though it is by no means certain that any of it was ever sown.

"It can hardly be expected that the ryot will go to the trouble of trying an experiment the failure of which would entail the loss of his labour as well as of the produce of his land for the season: he must be first assured that there is at least some probability of success; and the results of the attempts hitherto made have not been such as to convince him of this.

"Under existing circumstances, I feel somewhat at a loss as to the course that can be recommended for bringing to a satisfactory conclusion the experiments that have been desired in that part of the country. Closing the establishment at Dhundooka, even if it should prove to be but a temporary measure, will entirely preclude the possibility of Government continuing them for the present, and the only alternative that presents itself to me is, that it might be suggested that the Chamber of Commerce would take the matter entirely into its own hands, making Dhundooka one of the localities, in which, as I perceive from their last published report, they intend prosecuting experi-

ments in connection with and under the auspices of the Manchester Cotton Supply Association."

5. From the above description, and from my own personal knowledge of the Guzerat experiments, I scarcely think that the experiments at Dhundooka can be said to have been "moderately successful"; nor do I place much confidence in the opinion expressed by Dr. Forbes, who is quite unacquainted with the soil and climate of Guzerat, and formed his conclusions after a hasty visit of a very few days to the spot.

6. The practical utility of cotton experiments, generally, appears to me extremely doubtful. I am intimately acquainted with the history of those made in the Dharwar, Belgaum, Khandeish, Surat, Broach, and Ahmedabad Collectorates, during the last twenty-five years, and I can safely say that not one new fact bearing on the improvement of the cultivation of cotton has been elicited in that period. This result is not to be wondered at, considering that the persons entrusted with the carrying out of them, with the exception of the gentlemen brought from America, knew little or nothing of agriculture, either in theory or in practice, and were guided in all their operations by Native cultivators.

7. With regard to the American planters, I was thrown very much into the society of them, from my having been in charge of the districts the scene of their operations in the Dharwar Collectorate, and I watched with great interest their experiments for several years. These, however, had no result further than the introduction of the New Orleans cotton cultivated on the system followed by the Natives in the cultivation of indigenous cotton; the planters, who were very sagacious and acute observers, soon ascertained that the system of cultivation followed in America was unsuitable to India, and, moreover, admitted that the nearer they adopted the Native practice the better crops they obtained.

8. That the Native system of cultivation does not admit of improvement I do not for one moment mean to assert, but it will require the lifetime of Europeans well versed in agricultural science to be spent in the country, and cannot be expected from the efforts of pensioned serjeants and clerks, whose only recommendation for the superintendence

of cotton-experiments may be their good character for sobriety and honesty.

9. I beg to draw attention to the advertisement by the Chamber of Commerce, dated ——, which shows an extraordinary want of knowledge of the subject treated. People are therein advised to plant cotton in May and November: if they did so, they would inevitably lose both the seed and their labour. The soil in the month of May is very much like cinders heated to a temperature of 150°. The soil continues in this heated state till the middle or end of June, when the seed, if not become cinders also, and deprived of all germinating power, is reduced to a state of rottenness by the torrents of rain at the first burst of the monsoon. If the sowing, again, is delayed till November, the cotton has not time to ripen before the fierce heat of the sun forces the bolls to open prematurely, as was the case with the cotton described by Dr. Forbes.

10. Any person acquainted with agriculture in India is aware that no seed of any description of grain, cotton, &c. can be planted before the soil is moistened and cooled by the rains, and the time for sowing depends entirely on the fall of rain. For instance in Khandeish, if rain sufficient for sowing does not fall before the first week in August, no cotton is planted; for the experience of ages has taught the people that a profitable return cannot be expected from a crop planted so late.

11. As the services of any person with the qualification necessary for the superintendence of a Government experiment are not procurable, I cannot recommend Government to waste any more money in continuing the experiments at Dhundooka; but if the Government and the Chamber of Commerce think it desirable to ascertain whether New Orleans, Sea Island, Egyptian, or any other variety, can be profitably cultivated in Guzerat, I would suggest that the seed be sent to the Collector of Ahmedabad, with directions to engage ryots to plant it, paying them liberally for their labour, and the use of their land, and also giving them a bonus if they are successful in raising good crops. I would pay Rs. 7 (seven) an acre for all land so cultivated, and Rs. 3 (three) more if the crop was a good one. The former sum would not be more than sufficient to enable the ryot to pay the assessment and reimburse himself for his labour;

and if the crop turned out a good one, the whole expense would be repaid. I think Rs. 5000 (five thousand) per annum might be not unprofitably expended on such an experiment.

12. If the course above recommended be adopted, no weekly reports can be expected, as proposed in the 10th paragraph of the Chamber's letter.

13. Now to the 2nd point, viz. advisability of getting the several Collectors to get up experiments on a small scale. I certainly cannot support this recommendation of the Chamber's, which is contrary to their repeatedly expressed opinions of the utility of such experiments. No later than the 5th May 1859 did their Secretary, in his letter No. 48 to Government (*vide* your letter No. 1744, dated 9th May 1859), write as follows:—

> "The officers should also be directed to avoid *garden experiments* with the seed, as the results of such afford little or no criterion as to the success or otherwise of an extended cultivation of the plant."

14. The absurdity and uselessness of such experiments were well exemplified in Mr. Elphinston's experiments in Rutnagherry, alluded to in the Chamber's 13th paragraph. The soil and climate of that Collectorate are only adapted to rice and very coarse grains, and are quite unsuitable to the grains, &c., cultivated above the Ghauts. Mr. Elphinston certainly did produce cotton, but how did he do it? By expending four shillings in realising a pound of cotton, valued in Liverpool at three-pence!

15. With reference to the 3rd point, viz. advisability of keeping up an establishment at Dhundooka, I beg to subjoin paragraphs 2 to 9 of Dr. Forbes's letter to my address dated 16th April 1860:—

> "2. If the suitability of the saw-gin was the only point for consideration, the question of dispensing with the establishment might be at once replied to in the affirmative, because that machine is no better adapted to the cotton of the surrounding districts than it was found to be to the indigenous produce of the Southern Mahratta Country, for the cleaning of which it has long since been abandoned.
>
> "3. A very conclusive proof of the practical correctness of this statement was the fact that at the thread-spinning mills at Broach I found churkaed cotton alone was re-

sorted to, although the concern was provided with an extensive assortment of gins driven by steam, at which the required cotton might have been cleaned at somewhere less than one-fifth of the cost of the churka labour.

"4. But if machinery on the roller churka principle could be produced which would operate successfully upon Guzerat cotton, the increasing scarcity and enhanced value of labour would, I have no doubt, cause it to be most extensively resorted to; and in that event an establishment similar to that of Dhundooka would be desirable, if not indispensable, as a point to start from; for however simple the mechanism might be where Natives were concerned, some supervision would in the first instance be required, until such time as they became accustomed to it, and discovered that its advantages were sufficient to induce them to provide the necessary supervision for themselves, in the same manner as is now being done by the ryots and dealers of the Dharwar districts.*

"5. I find, however, that there is a marked difference between the various indigenous cottons of Guzerat and the like produce of the Deccan and southern districts: the fibre is not only comparatively more abundant on the seed, but it also adheres much more tenaciously to it; and both these peculiarities will, I believe, interfere withthe operations of the new churka, rendering some modifications necessary which have not yet been thought of.

"6. The fact that the above cottons are now cleaned by the hand churka does not affect this probability, for reasons that can be explained, and to which is to be attributed the circumstance of the common hand churka of Guzerat differing so materially in its relative proportions from that made use of in the Dharwar districts.

"7. At the same time, I hardly entertain a doubt that the required modifications will be readily ascertained and applied at home; but for this purpose it will be necessary to have some of the raw material to operate upon; and I should therefore feel obliged if it could be arranged that

* Dr. Forbes in a subsequent letter states that a Superintendent somewhat on the same footing as Mr. Daley will be required, without an assistant."

a bag of Dhundooka kuppas, known as 'Waguria,' and one of Broach seed cotton, each containing about seven maunds or 300lb., could be procured from those districts, and sent by sea to England, by an early opportunity.

"8. In anticipation of being able to obtain the requisite implements, and keeping in view the difficulty and inconvenience that might be experienced in providing premises and machinery for a new workshop, in event of such being required, I think that, for the time being, it might be desirable to retain those at present at Dhundooka, dispensing immediately with the services of the Native establishment now entertained, which consists of a Karkoon and three workmen.

"9. I have the less hesitation in recommending this course, because whatever may be the ultimate result, the outlay during the time which may be required to ascertain it need be but very small. One man upon eight or ten rupees a month, placed under the orders of the Mamlutdar, would suffice for attending to the preservation of the machinery and premises; and in case of the measure being adopted, I have annexed a memorandum of items noted upon the spot, which might be given to the Mamlutdar to enable him to understand what would require to be attended to by the person placed in charge."

16. The "memorandum of items" referred to by Dr. Forbes accompanies in original—I concur in the views expressed by that gentleman in paragraphs 8 and 9, and beg to recommend them for adoption; the wages of the man who may be employed to look after the machinery being met by a contingent bill until further orders—at any rate, for six months certain.

17. Dr. Forbes's proposals regarding the retention of an establishment at Dhundooka will depend upon whether machinery can be produced in England to clean the Guzerat cotton without injuring its staple. I have (on the 20th ultimo) desired the Collectors of Ahmedabad and Broach to send to Bombay 300lb. of Waguria and Broach seeded cotton, and have requested the Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium to forward them to London, to the care of Messrs. Grindlay & Co., Cornhill, at the suggestion of Dr. Forbes. I shall be obliged by your sending,

with the permission of His Lordship in Council, whatever instructions may be deemed necessary in furtherance of the object in view.

18. I am afraid sufficient time does not remain to admit of the proposal contained in paragraph 11 hereof, if sanctioned, being carried out.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) S. MANSFIELD,
Revenue Commissioner Northern Division.

Revenue Commr.'s Office, Camp Matheran, 8th May 1860.

No. 1077 OF 1860.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From S. MANSFIELD, Esq.,
Revenue Commissioner Northern Division,

To B. H. ELLIS, Esq.,
Acting Secretary to Government, Bombay.

SIR,—Since I despatched my letter No. 1051, dated 8th instant, I find I slightly misquoted that portion of the advertisement of the Chamber of Commerce alluded to in paragraph 9, which is as follows:—

"It is recommended that the seed should be sowed shortly before the setting in of the rains, and after the rains have ceased, in order that the relative advantages of early and late sowing may be tried."

Vide Bombay Gazette of the 9th May 1860, page 440, column 5.

2. You will observe that the observations I made are in no way affected by the mistake.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) S. MANSFIELD,
Revenue Commissioner Northern Division.

Revenue Commr.'s Office, Camp Matheran, 10th May 1860.

No. 1574 OF 1860.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From S. MANSFIELD, Esq.,
Revenue Commissioner Northern Division,

To B. H. ELLIS, Esq.,
Secretary to Government.

SIR,—With reference to paragraph 17 of my letter No. 1051, dated 8th May last, I have the honor to report, for the information of His Excellency in Council, that, from a letter received from Mr. Jenkins, Deputy Commissioner of Customs at the Presidency, I find that the Waguria and Broach seeded cottons therein alluded to have been "shipped to London to the care of Messrs. Grindlay & Company."

2. Mr. Jenkins does not mention the name of the vessel by, and the date on which, they were shipped; but I presume the bills of lading have been duly forwarded Home through the Secretariate, Bombay.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) S. MANSFIELD,
Revenue Commissioner Northern Division.

Revenue Commr.'s Office, Poona, 19*th July* 1860.

(True copies)
(Signed) A. D. ROBERTSON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 171 OF 1861.

From A. ROGERS, Esq.,
Collector of Ahmedabad,

To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—I have the honor to request you will have the goodness to ascertain from the Chamber whether they are willing to bear, pending the result of Dr. Forbes's visit to England, the expenses that are incurred for the preservation of the cotton gins at Dhundooka. Two peons on Rs. 4 each per mensem are at present employed to take care of the gins, but as they know little or nothing respecting their

construction, I fear they will not be able to clean them properly, and the gins may sustain injury, in consequence, during the rains. To remedy the evil, I purpose discharging one of the peons, and employing a blacksmith on Rs. 10 (ten) per mensem, and would like to know if the Chamber would pay the expenses monthly on account of the peon and blacksmith, until Government come to a determination as regards the disposal of the machinery, or otherwise. As the remaining peon would have more to do, and the expenses of living are now very heavy, in consequence of the dearness of provisions, I would recommend that his pay should be increased to Rs. 5 a month.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) A. ROGERS,
Collector.

Ahmedabad Collector's Camp, Nugeena, 5th March 1861.

No. 1212 OF 1861.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—I am directed to forward the accompanying copy of a Resolution by the Government of India, dated the 28th ultimo, regarding the supply of Indian cotton to England, and to request that the Chamber of Commerce will favour His Excellency the Governor in Council with any suggestions that they may have to offer on the subject.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) A. D. ROBERTSON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 13th March 1861.

RESOLUTION.

HOME DEPARTMENT, *the 28th February* 1861.

Supply of Indian Cotton to England.

His Excellency the Governor General in Council has had under his consideration the possibility of a greatly and suddenly increased demand for Indian cotton

in England, and he desires to draw the attention of each local Government within the territories of which cotton-producing and cotton-exporting districts lie, to those measures whereby the power of India to meet such increased demand for cotton may be augmented by help of Government.

It is to be observed:—

First.—That no measure which places Government in the position of the private capitalist, cultivator, or speculator, or which in any way interferes with private enterprise, can be otherwise than permanently injurious in itself, and detrimental to the object in view.

Therefore, all attempts to stimulate cultivation or labour, by any exertion of Government authority, directly or indirectly, are out of the question.

The same objection will apply to model farms and experimental cultivation conducted by officers of Government.

Secondly.—No measure will meet the object immediately in view unless it shall tell on the production of cotton during the next season, and on our means of getting that season's crop to port. This limitation will exclude from present consideration such projects as railways or canals, which, although the surest permanent means of increasing our power of export, could be made to tell to only a very limited degree on the exports of the next few seasons. Moreover, the attention of Government is already directed to promote these works to the utmost extent compatible with its financial means, and even so serious a calamity as an apprehension of a short supply of cotton in England could hardly add to the desire of the Government of India to advance them as rapidly as possible.

The question for consideration is, what can the Government do towards facilitating an immediate increase of production, and towards improving the means of bringing the produce to port?

As to increasing Production.

The solution of questions connected with the tenure of land, and with the law regarding contracts for the delivery of agricultural produce, which are now under the consideration of Government, may ultimately produce a very considerable effect on the investment of European capital in the

cotton districts, but the result could not be immediate. More probably, an immediate increase of the coming crop of cotton will depend on the rapidity with which information regarding the demand and prices in England can be communicated to the producers in the cotton districts, and on the removal of all impediments to intimate and rapid communication between those who grow or collect the cotton in the interior, and the merchants who export it from the port of shipment. Directly and indirectly the Government may do something to promote these objects; especially if agents of the mercantile community of our ports will visit the cotton-producing districts, and do all that may be effected by personal intercourse to reduce the number of hands through which the produce must pass between the place of production and the place of shipment. There is also much valuable statistical information regarding the extent of cotton cultivation which it may be in the power of the Government officers to furnish from the public records, or to verify when obtained through other means.

The operations in the interior of the capitalists at our seaport towns may be facilitated by affording them the aid of the Government treasury in their banking arrangements in those parts of the country where as yet no private banks have been established. The agents of respectable firms at the Presidency towns might be permitted, under certain rules, to have their bills on the Presidency cashed at the Government treasuries, paying no more premium than the actual cost of conveying the coin. This, without entailing expense on Government, might often prove a convenience to the merchants.

As to improving the means of bringing the produce to port.

It is by facilitating existing means of communication, even though it be in a rough way, that Government can best aid the merchant promptly, without exceeding its legitimate functions.

Projects for bridged and metalled roads are not practicable within the next year or eighteen months; but there is a great extent of country capable of producing cotton, which is now not easily accessible to ordinary country carts, even during the fair season; and probably it is by improving the present country cart and pack-bullock tracks, and thus

extending the mileage over which an ordinary load of cotton may be conveyed at a rate of 2½ or three miles per hour, that the export of the next season's crop may be most effectually aided.

In this view, the Governor General in Council requests that each local Government will at once take measures to have the lines of traffic between their cotton-producing districts, and the port of shipment, whether on sea or river, examined and reported on by a competent officer. This officer should note, in general terms, the extent and probable cost of any improvements required to bring the existing country cart-tracks up to the standard just described. For the execution of the improvements the Government should select the nearest executive authority as the one to be charged with the work; and where there is no such authority at hand, a special agency should be employed for the purpose; the only conditions being that the work to be undertaken should be capable of immediate execution.

For such purposes, officers of high scientific attainments, as Engineers, are not needed. An officer of judgment and energy, with a capacity for rapidly estimating the probable cost of the very simple works required, will be almost as useful as an accomplished Engineer. In the event of any expenditure being required, which it is beyond the power of the local Government to sanction, application should be made to the Government of India for a special grant.

It would be very desirable that the officers employed to examine and report should be accompanied each by a member of whatever commercial community may be most interested in the produce of the district, who might observe and report on any obstacles, other than physical, which may appear to impede the cotton trade. The combined report of two such gentlemen, if well selected, would furnish information of considerable practical value regarding any province in which they might be employed.

The Government of India will be prepared to bear the charge of the travelling expenses of any gentlemen who might be deputed by commercial communities to accompany its officers.

It is not intended to discourage, on the part of those who may be engaged as above described, suggestions of any extensive or costly work which may promise to subserve,

in a large and more permanent manner, the great object in view, even though it may not admit of speedy execution, or be within the means of Government to sanction immediately.

ORDERED, that a copy of this Resolution be communicated to the Governments of Madras and Bombay; to the Lieutenant Governors of Bengal, the North-Western Provinces, and the Punjab; to the Commissioners of Pegu, Nagpore, and Mysore; and to the Resident at Hyderabad.

Ordered further, that the local Governments and Administrations be requested to communicate a copy of the Resolution to the commercial communities at their chief towns, through the Chambers of Commerce, or otherwise; with an invitation of any suggestions which may occur to those practically interested, and which may aid more effectually to attain the great national object in view.

(Signed) W. GREY,
Secretary to the Government of India.

(True copy)

(Signed) A. D. ROBERTSON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 37 OF 1861.

To A. D. ROBERTSON, Esq.,
Acting Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department, Bombay.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 1212 of 1861, dated 13th March, with reference to the resolution of Government on the supply of Indian cotton to England, in which it is suggested that a Member of the Chamber should accompany the Commission appointed to inspect and report on the roads &c. in the cotton districts.

I have now the honor to inform you that Mr. W. C. Sillar has kindly consented to represent the Chamber on the tour in question; and the Committee will therefore feel obliged if you will intimate to them the route of the proposed tour, and the names of the gentlemen of whom it will be composed, in

order that they may convey their views to Mr. Sillar with the least possible delay.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 6th April 1861.

No. 189 OF 1861.

From A. ROGERS, Esq.,
Collector of Ahmedabad,

To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—I have the honor to request you will bring to the notice of the Chamber of Commerce that there is a small quantity of exotic cotton, vide margin, (the produce of land in the neighbourhood,) at Dhundooka, and that, if they are desirous of securing the same, I shall be happy to make arrangements for sending it down to Bombay when I hear from you.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

Egyptian cotton, cleaned, 1 maund and 10 seers.
Do. uncleaned, 21 seers and 40 tollas.
New Orleans Cotton, uncleaned, 22 seers and 40 tollas.

(Signed) A. ROGERS,
Collector.

Ahmedabad Collector's Camp, Nugeena, 13th March 1861.

No. 29 OF 1861.

To A. ROGERS, Esq.,
Collector of Ahmedabad, Camp Nugeena.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 5th instant, inquiring whether the Chamber would be willing to contribute to the expenses of maintenance in repair of the cotton gins at Dhundooka.

The inquiry is doubtless based upon a letter No. 32 of 1860, in which the Chamber expressed their willingness to

contribute to the expense of the establishment at Dhundooka with the object of preserving the acclimated American seed grown there, for the purpose of re-sowing it before the monsoon.

It appears, however, that the seed has not been preserved, and that the experiment came to an abrupt conclusion about the end of the season of 1860.

The saw-gins are, as you are no doubt aware, unsuited to the fibre of the Native cotton, and as no American cotton is now grown in Guzerat, the Chamber do not conceive that the interests of commerce are particularly concerned in their maintenance; and being Government property, the Committee consider that the Government should themselves defray the expenses necessary to preserve them in a saleable condition.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

[See page 106 of Appendices to last Report of the Chamber.]

P. S.—Since writing the foregoing, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 189 of 1861, dated 13th instant, and to state in reply that the Chamber will be glad to receive the cotton and kuppas produced at Dhundooka.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 25th March 1861.

IMPROVEMENT OF DHARWAR COTTON.

No. 162 OF 1861.

To M. J. SHAW STEWART, Esq.,
Under-Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department, Bombay.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to call your attention to the remarkable improvement that has of late taken place in the value of the Dharwar sawginned American cotton.

A few years ago, the cultivation and ginning of this description had gradually sunk to so low a grade, that the quotations in the English market presented but a small advance over the common Native Comptah which is the produce of the same Collectorate. It was then pointed out that this decline in value was owing to two special causes,—the careless sowing of mixed American and Native seed, and the want of attention in keeping the sawgins in good working order. The letters of Dr. Forbes show that about this time he had directed his attention to these important points, and by taking every opportunity of explaining to the chief cultivators the desirability of weeding out the Native cotton, and by organising a system by which the sawgins were preserved in good repair and efficient working order, he had evidently succeeded in bringing about a marked improvement in the quality of the cotton, which now promises to compete on fair terms with the produce of the United States.

The object of the present communication, while only doing justice to Dr. Forbes's exertions, is to point out what may be done by individual influence perseveringly and temperately brought to bear against Native apathy and indifference, and to urge upon Government the importance of maintaining, by similar means, the high character which this description of cotton is now steadily acquiring.

The relative prices of sawginned Dharwar, contrasted with Broach and Comptah, may be seen from the following quotations:—

Years.	Middling Orleans.	Fair Dharwar.	Fair Broach.	Fair Comptah.
1st Aug. 1850..	8	7	6⅛	5⅜
1851..	4½	4¼	3¾	3¼
1858..	7⅛	5⅞	5¾	5⅜
1859..	7⅛	5½	5½	5¼
1860..	5⅞	4¼	4½	3¼
1861..	8½	7¼	6¼	5½

It will thus be seen that the superiority of Dharwar sawginned over Native Comptah was indicated in

1850 by 1⅜*d.*, over Broach by 0¼*d.*,
1851 by 1*d.*, „ „ 0½*d.*.

1858 by $0\frac{1}{2}d.$, over Broach by $0\frac{1}{8}d.$,
1859 by $0\frac{1}{4}d.$, „ „ nil,
1860 by $1d.$, „ „ $0\frac{1}{4}d.$ less,
1861 by $1\frac{3}{4}d.$, „ „ $1d.$ more;

showing the extreme variations in relative values brought about by carelessness and indifference at one period, and by attention and perseverance at another.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 26th August 1861.

PRIZES FOR CULTIVATION.

No. 161 OF 1861.

To M. J. SHAW STEWART, Esq.,
Under-Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department, Bombay.

SIR,—The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce have this day had their attention called to a Resolution by the Governor General in Council, dated the 9th inst., offering prizes for the production of cotton during the next two years. The awards, it appears by paragraph 5 of the Resolution, will be placed in the hands of the several Chambers of Commerce; and the Committee of the Bombay Chamber hope they may be permitted, without waiting for a special reference from Government, to lay before His Excellency the Governor in Council a suggestion which they are led to think should without delay be acted on.

2. A prize of Rs. 10,000 it is intended should be given in each Presidency for "the largest quantity of cotton, combined with the best quality, which shall be grown upon any one estate during the season of 1861-62, and which shall be brought for shipment to any port by the month of June 1862."

3. The present season is now too far advanced to admit of the proposed prize for 1861-62 aiding in the carrying out of the intention expressed in paragraph 3 of the Resolution, viz. to "expedite the solution of the doubts which exist as to the best soils and climates and modes of cultivation for cotton

in those districts whence, heretofore, there has been little if any export of cotton to Europe"; and the prize, if given for this year, as above proposed, will fall to some cultivator who, from accident, may chance to be in the possession of land the best suited for exotic cotton, who perhaps had paid no very careful attention to the best modes of cultivation, and who would be able to give little information of real practical value.

4. The seed for the present season, with the exception perhaps of in the Dharwar district, having already been sown throughout this Presidency, it is the opinion of the Committee that prizes for this year should be so distributed as to ensure the picking, cleaning, and marketing in the best possible manner of the growing crop; and with a view to carrying out this object in the most effectual manner, prizes should be given for the several descriptions of cotton, say one for each growth of the various districts. If there be but one prize, Dharwar cotton from American seed will no doubt carry it off, and the growers of the large crops of Dhollera, Broach, and Oomrawuttee, varieties useful and susceptible of great improvement from care in picking and cleaning, will feel that it is useless to attempt to compete with those who have the more favoured soil of the south.

5. Holding these views, the Committee would respectfully suggest, that the sum of Rs. 10,000 proposed to be given in the current year should be placed at the disposal of the Chamber of Commerce, to be distributed in such a manner as to its Members may appear best calculated to effect the end aimed at in paragraph 4 of this letter, —the exact particulars and conditions to be settled and made known immediately on the assent of Government to this proposal being obtained.

6. For the season of 1862-63, it will be very desirable that prizes specially for the growth of cotton should be given, as intending competitors will have had time to make necessary preparations. The Committee however think, that, as a greater inducement, there should be several graduated prizes.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) GEORGE LORD,
Chairman.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 24th August 1861.

No. 3866 of 1861.

Revenue Department.

To the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce,
Bombay.

Sir,—I am directed by the Governor in Council to forward copy of a letter from the Government of India, and of the Resolution therein referred to, and to request that the Chamber will state if they consent to undertake the task of awarding the prize allotted to this Presidency, and that they favour His Excellency in Council with any suggestions which might be embodied with the conditions stated in the Resolution of the Government of India, in a code of rules, to be translated into the languages of this Presidency, and promulgated in the cotton-growing districts.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) M. J. Shaw Stewart,
Under-Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 31*st August* 1861.

Supply of Indian Cotton to England.

Resolution by the Governor General in Council, dated the 9th August 1861.

Home Department.

1. In a Resolution of the 28th of February last, the Government of India signified its earnest desire to encourage the cultivation of cotton in India by every means consistent with the proper functions of Government.

In the discussions which have since taken place, the best informed authorities on this great national question have insisted on the fact that, while the area of land under cotton cultivation in India is capable of great and rapid extension under the stimulus of higher prices, the quality of the cotton produced is less easily susceptible of improvement, and that it is most important to direct the attention of all parties interested in the cultivation to improvement of the quality,

while maintaining, and if possible increasing, the average yield per acre of the general cotton crop of the country.

2. It has been suggested that the Government of India might usefully aid in this work without infringing the first rule* laid down in the Resolution of the 28th February last. The Governor General in Council believes that observance of this rule is necessary to any sound and permanent improvement; but, as far as can be done without infringing it, His Excellency in Council desires that nothing be omitted on the part of Government which can aid in arousing the attention of India to the great questions involved in any scarcity of the raw material for our English manufactures—questions the interest of which is deepened as each successive mail brings fresh evidence that the scarcity may be more than temporary.

* 1*st*.—That no measure which places Government in the position of the private capitalist, cultivator, or speculator, or which in any way interferes with private enterprise, can be otherwise than permanently injurious in itself and detrimental to the object in view.

Therefore, all attempts to stimulate cultivation or labour by any exertion of Government authority, directly or indirectly, are out of the question.

The same objection will apply to model farms and experimental cultivation conducted by Officers of Government.

3. His Excellency in Council believes that much may be effected even in those older cotton districts of India which have long contributed an important share of the cotton of the lower qualities employed in our English manufactures. But it is of still greater importance to aid and expedite the solution of the doubts which exist as to the best soils and climates and modes of cultivation for cotton in those districts whence heretofore there has been little, if any, export of cotton to Europe.

4. In furtherance of these views, the Governor General in Council has resolved to offer prizes for the production of cotton during the two next years, that is to say, in the current season of 1861-62, and in the subsequent season of 1862-63.

Three prizes of ten thousand rupees each will be given in each season—one in the Presidency of Fort William, one in the Presidency of Madras, and one in the Presidency of Bombay.

5. For the current season the conditions will be as follows.

A. The prize in each Presidency will be given for the largest quantity of cotton, combined with the best quality, which shall be grown upon any one estate within the Presidency during the season of 1861-62, and which shall be brought for shipment to any port in or before the month of June 1862.

B. Any district in the interior will be considered to have a claim to compete for the prize in that Presidency to the port of which it is intended to send the cotton for shipment.

C. The extent of ground under cultivation must not be less than thirty acres, all belonging to one property, or cultivated by one superintendent.

D. The fulfilment of the last named conditions must be certified by the chief revenue officer of the district in which the estate is situated, or by any other agents specially recognised by the Government for that purpose.

These two last rules are intended to prevent the prize being given to a selection of picked samples from a large area, which would require none of the care or attention to the general cultivation of the plant which it is the desire of Government to encourage.

E. The prizes will be awarded by the Chambers of Commerce at Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, respectively, if the gentlemen representing those bodies will consent to undertake the task.

F. A sealed sample of the cotton must be sent by each competitor to the Chamber of Commerce, and the consignment to which the prize is awarded will afterwards be inspected by the Chamber, and verified as corresponding with the sample. In case of its being desired to ship the consignment at an outport, the inspection of it will be made by some person specially appointed by the Chamber of Commerce.

G. Each sample must be accompanied by a full and clear statement by the grower of the system which has been pursued in the cultivation, with an accurate and detailed account of all the expenses incurred.

H. Any subsidiary rules which may be found requisite will be laid down by the Chambers of Commerce.

6. All public officers whose assistance may be sought in respect to the conditions of the 4th rule, or for any

other object, are enjoined to give their cordial co-operation in carrying out the intention of Government.—By order, &c.,

(Signed) W. GREY,
Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1506.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

From W. GREY, Esq.,
Secretary to the Government of India,

To A. K. FORBES, Esq.,
Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

SIR,—I am directed to forward the accompanying copy of a Resolution by the Governor General in Council, which has been published in the *Gazette* of this date, offering prizes in the present and in the following year for encouraging the production of cotton in India, and the improvement of its quality, and stating the general conditions under which the prizes will be given; and I am directed to request that the Resolution may be re-published in the *Bombay Gazette*.

2. I am further to request, that, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, it may be ascertained from the Chamber of Commerce at Bombay whether they are willing to undertake the duty of awarding the prize in that Presidency, as suggested by the Resolution.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) W. GREY,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Fort William, the 10*th August* 1861.

(True copy)

(Signed) M. J. SHAW STEWART,
Under-Secretary to Government.

No. 3877 of 1861.

Revenue Department.

To G. Lord, Esq.,
Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

Sir,—In reply to your letter dated the 24th ultimo, I am directed to inform you, that the subject of the Resolution of the Government of India, therein referred to, is under the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council, and that the views which may be taken by this Government on the question will shortly be communicated to you.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) M. J. Shaw Stewart,
Under-Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 2nd September 1861.

FAILURE OF EGYPTIAN SEED IN SIND.

No. 954 of 1861.

Revenue Department.

From the Commissioner in Sind,

To the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce,
Bombay.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 11th May 1860, forwarding, by direction of the Manchester Cotton Supply Association, 5 bags of Egyptian cotton seed for trial in this province, I have now the honor to communicate the results of the experiments made by the different officers to whom the seed was sent.

2. From Shikarpoor the Collector reports as follows:—

"From all parts of this Collectorate there was the same complaint, viz. that the seed arrived at too late a period of the season. I would beg particularly to impress upon the attention of the Chamber of Commerce, or Cotton Supply Association, that, to succeed, foreign cotton must be in the ground not later than 15th March.

"The seed sent to Roree failed, and the Deputy Collector reported in June 1860, that only three sickly plants

had been raised from the whole quantity of seed sent to him, as the remainder had not germinated. From these plants, Mr. Surtees now informs me that one seer of excellent seed has been obtained, which has now been sown partly at Sukkur and partly at Gotekee.

"The Deputy Collector of Sukkur and Shikarpoor reports that the seed was sent too late for trial last year, and that it has only lately been sown.

"In the Larkhana and Mehur Districts the seed failed; the greater portion did not germinate, and that which did come up did not arrive at maturity.

"I am of opinion that the seed suffers from being sent out in 'bags,' as the damp generated in the ship's hold on the voyage destroys the germ of the plant. If sent in tight casks, I think that this misfortune would be remedied.

"And I am clearly of opinion, if this precaution be adopted, and the seed sent in the early part of the season, that both Egyptian and New Orleans cotton will succeed in Upper Sind."

3. The seed sent to Hydrabad was sown in two separate fields near Tarooshah during the first week in July, and the Collector reports that—

"It grew luxuriantly, and came into blossom in September; but as the seed pods began to form, they were attacked by an insect; which prevented the formation of fibre and seed. About this time, too, the white-ants attacked the roots, and in a few weeks the plants withered away. The Sindee cotton, which grew alongside, did not suffer from these insects."

4. In the Kurrachee Collectorate, the seed arrived too late to be sown in the Sehwan Districts, but it will be tried there this year, and the result reported. In the Jerruck Districts the Deputy Collector reports that—

"The seed germinated well, but when the plants became a few feet high, they were attacked by a kind of blight, and perished. He tried the experiment in his garden at Jerruck, where the plants turned out tolerably well, but there was nothing to denote marked success.

5. I am informed that the cultivation of this staple is attracting the attention of some European firms now in

Kurrachee. Under European management and supervision, it is possible that an experiment would be successful. On this subject Major Dunsterville, the present Collector of Kurrachee, submits the following opinion:—

"In order to experiment in an effective manner with a new seed, the supervision of Europeans is necessary, who would watch the periods of sowing, would regulate the supply of water, choose the soil, and after the course of three or four seasons, the results could then be reported on satisfactorily. The Sindees in Lower Sind are not cotton-growing people, and sow merely what is sufficient for the village wants, without caring about the staple, or any other advantage. Captain Southey says—'The cultivators themselves are averse to its cultivation, and without positive pressure would not undertake it.' An experiment can therefore not be satisfactorily committed to their hands."

6. On the whole, I have not the least doubt that, as stated by the Collector of Shikarpoor, if foreign seed were sent out to this country properly and carefully packed, and if it were despatched so as to arrive in this province at the beginning of the year, the experiment of its introduction would prove successful, and that the cotton of Sind would, like the cotton of Dharwar, become an improved article of commerce. For the carriage of the staple to the coast, the river Indus, the canals branching therefrom, and numerous roads in every direction, offer every facility.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) J. D. INVERARITY,
Commissioner in Sind.

Commissioner's Office, Kurrachee, 6th May 1861.

No. 98 OF 1861.

To J. D. INVERARITY, Esq.,
Commissioner in Sind.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 954 of 1861, dated 6th May, with reference to cotton experiments in Sind.

The Committee are glad to observe, that although the failures have thus far been complete, the Commissioner does not regard them as at all conclusive against ultimate success. In Dharwar, the experiments passed through many years of hopeless failures before success rewarded the labours of those who urged them on, and the Committee trust that a similar result will occur in Sind.

It is very fortunate that *some* country-grown seed has been saved, as it seems probable that the plant after several generations accommodates itself to the climate; thus, although a plant from imported American seed will only live one season, one from Dharwar American seed will live and bear cotton for three years.

It appears possible, by an overland importation, to lay down the American seed in Kurrachee easily in December, and probably the same remark would apply to Egyptian seed. The Dharwar seed could not be sent before March at earliest, as the gathering of the crop only begins in February.

In forwarding your letter to the Cotton Supply Association, the Committee will urge upon them the necessity of dispatch, and the employment of the overland route for seed intended for Sind.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 22nd May 1861.

No. 1049 OF 1861.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From the COMMISSIONER IN SIND,
To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—In continuation of my letter No. 954, dated 6th instant, communicating the results of the cultivation of Egyptian cotton seed in this province, I have the honor to forward the following extract from a further report received from the Collector of Shikarpoor:—

"I have received a further report from the Deputy

Collector Larkhana, that one beega of the Egyptian cotton sown last year at Ruttadhera, in his districts, did not wholly fail, but produced 240lb. of raw cotton. A sample of this, No. 1 [see sample No. 33] is also sent by this opportunity. The seed has been saved, and will be sown immediately.

"I received this information after the despatch of my Cotton Report No. 132, of 17th ultimo. Mr. Daley tells me that this small field of cotton was saved owing to the great care and attention paid to the crop by the cultivators, but I cannot discover why the seed of the same description distributed last year should not have germinated in other places."

2. The sample of cotton referred to is enclosed in a separate packet to your address, and will be forwarded by steamer.—I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) J. D. INVERARITY,
Commissioner in Sind.

Commissioner's Office, Kurrachee, 17th May 1861.

No. 122 OF 1861.

To J. D. INVERARITY, Esq.,
Commissioner in Sind.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 1049 of 1861, dated 17th ultimo, with sample of Egyptian cotton for report and valuation.

This sample presents none of the usual characteristics of Egyptian cotton, the fibre being extremely short, while that of the latter is at least twice the length, and different in character; indeed, so much so, that the Committee are induced to believe that some mistake must have been made in packing up the sample.

The description of the sample in question would be as follows:—

Sample No. 33—Sind Cotton.—Good colour, and clean, very short staple, similar in character to middling fair Oomrawuttee, value by last dates from Liverpool $5\frac{1}{4}d.$ to $5\frac{3}{8}d.$

Middling Orleans was then worth 7¾*d.*, and middling Egyptian 8⅛*d.*

It is possible that the staple may have deteriorated from excessive dryness of the soil or atmosphere, but this would hardly be compatible with the amouut of produce. viz. 240lb. of kuppas per beega, which is above the usual average of Native cotton.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 24th June 1861.

No. 1074 OF 1861.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From the COMMISSIONER IN SIND,
To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—With further reference to the subject of my letter No. 1049, dated 17th instant, I have the honor to state that the Political Superintendent of the Frontier of Upper Sind informs me that the Egyptian cotton seed sown in his districts proved a total failure, owing to its having arrived too late in the season.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) J. D. INVERARITY,
Commissioner in Sind.

Commissioner's Office, Kurrachee, 22nd May 1861.

No. 1654 OF 1861.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From the COMMISSIONER IN SIND,
To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—With reference to your letter No. 122, dated 24th

June last, I have the honor to inform you that the question of identity of the cotton was referred by me to the Collector of Shikarpoor, who informs me that "no mistake was made with regard to the sample of Egyptian cotton" forwarded to you with my letter No. 1049, dated 17th May last.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) J. D. INVERARITY,
Commissioner in Sind.

Commissioner's Office, Kurrachee, 30th July 1861.

DISTRIBUTION OF SEED.

No. 98 OF 1861.

From Major E. P. ARTHUR,
Political Superintendent, Pahlunpoor,

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—With reference to your notification in the newspapers regarding the undertaking of experiments in the growth of cotton, if you will send me 40lb. of seed I shall be happy to make an experiment in two of my districts in the Pahlunpoor States of Radhunpoor and Wurrayee, where considerable quantities of cotton are now grown from an inferior kind of seed.

2. I shall be most happy to furnish a full report of the particulars of the experiment, and request that you will send me full particulars regarding the management of the cotton-cleaning machine which I am informed will be sent with seed to those willing to undertake experiments in the cultivation of cotton.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) E. P. ARTHUR, Major,
Political Superintendent.

Pahlunpoor Agency Office, 29th March 1861.

To Major E. P. ARTHUR,
Political Superintendent, Pahlunpoor.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge your letter of 29th ultimo, and to state in reply that 20lb. of New Egyptian cotton seed have been sent to your address per banghy, and 20lb. of New Dharwar grown American seed will be forwarded to you from Gudduk.

The cotton gins in possession of the Chamber are quite useless in this climate; but when Dr. Forbes's newly invented churka shall have reached this country, the Committee will have the pleasure of obtaining one for you. Kindly therefore inform me to whom it should be delivered, as the Chamber cannot undertake to forward it up-country.

Referring to a memorandum on the supposed best mode of cultivating exotic cotton, I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 11th April 1861.

MEMORANDUM RESPECTING COTTON CULTIVATION.

The land should be laid out in beds of four feet wide for American and five feet for Egyptian, leaving a drain of about nine inches deep between each bed.

The seed should be sown in a drill about two inches deep in the centre of the bed, and should be sown as early as the state of the ground will permit, so that the plant may have some hold of the ground before the *heavy* monsoon rains set in.

When the plant has six or eight leaves, the stand should be reduced to a bunch of two or three plants at equal distances of one foot, and when the plants have further grown to about a foot high, the weakest plants should be pulled up, leaving only one plant at every distance of one foot: for a small experiment, it would perhaps be as easy to sow two or three seeds at once at equal distances of one foot, and when large enough reduce the number as above described.

The most important and most laborious part of cotton

planting is *weeding*, which must be done almost constantly, as the young plant will die if surrounded by grass or weeds.

The American will give a first crop in September or October, and when it is over, and the plant looks dry and withered, it should be pruned roughly, by cutting off the branches to the extent of about half their length; a second growth will then take place, and a second crop be obtained, the period of which depends on the climate.

Egyptian will not produce cotton before December and January, and should be pruned about the 15th January, when it will produce a second crop in May, after which it should be cut down to about six inches from the ground, and treated as a perennial in future.

It is not desirable to dig up the ground at any time after the plant is sown, and watering or irrigation of any kind appears decidedly injurious.

To ascertain the best time for sowing, a small piece of ground might be set apart, on which one row of seed might be sown every week from 1st June to 1st September.

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 16th March 1861.

No. 203 OF 1861.

From Major E. P. ARTHUR,
Political Superintendent, Pahlunpoor,

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—Referring to the 2nd paragraph of your letter dated 12th April last, I have the honor to request you will be good enough to deliver the "churka" therein alluded to to Eduljee Nusserwanjee Colabawalla, Fort, Bombay, who has been requested to forward it to me.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) E. P. ARTHUR, Major,
Political Superintendent.

Pahlunpoor Agency Office, 12th June 1861.

No. 127 of 1861.

To Major E. P. Arthur,
Political Superintendent, Pahlunpoor.

Sir,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 203 of 1861, dated 12th ultimo, requesting the Chamber to deliver to Mr. Eduljee Nusserwanjee Colabawalla one of Dr. Forbes's churkas.

It was omitted to be mentioned that these churkas are not sent out by the Cotton Supply Association for gratuitous distribution, but have been made to the order of a private firm here, and are now ready for delivery. The price will be Rs. 85.

It has been ascertained by experiment, that about 150 to 200lb. of kuppas, or from 50 to 60lb. of cleaned cotton, can be turned out in a day by one boy. It is simple in construction, and not liable to derangement.—Waiting your further instructions, I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. Brooke,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 3rd July 1861.

To the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce,
Bombay.

Sir,—It has hitherto been an accepted opinion that the regur or black soil is the only soil suited for the cultivation of cotton, and the estimate of what Guzerat is capable of producing is calculated upon the area of black soil only, to the exclusion of the greater half, which is gorradoo, or the red sandy loam peculiar to this province.

Having to report upon the Matur Purgunna, which has been classified in full detail for the introduction of the new revenue settlement, I have been led this year, as much by duty as by pleasure, to particularly notice the present state of agriculture, and the capabilities of the soil of that portion of the Bombay Presidency, correctly termed the "Garden of Western India."

The Thalubdoo cotton, grown in the neighbourhood of Memdabad, in a group of villages through which the railway

is to pass, has shared careful consideration, and I hope before long to give your Chamber an account of the cotton store, which only requires "bringing out" to extend beyond the dimensions of the regur supply, known to you as "Surat," "Broach," and "Dhollera," but locally as the Kaumnee and Bhât cotton.

This cotton tree stands four years, yielding cotton twice in the season for three successive years; and, although sown as a mixed crop, with bajree in every eighth furrow, which must necessarily diminish the supply, produces 24 maunds of cotton with seed, or 3 maunds, equal to 120lb., without seed, per acre—a proof of the fertility of the soil, even under management the very antipodes of agricultural science.

This soil, which does not give place to the black in any of those properties which would commend it to the notice of Bombay merchants, is called "gorumbee gorradoo," and Guzerat can place at your service many hundred square miles of the same.

My present object in addressing you is to obtain a copy of all the works at your disposal treating upon cotton, in order that I may extend my views on the subject of what may, I hope, ultimately prove beneficial to the interests of your Chamber.

My camp will be removed to Surat at the close of this month; should this communication be deserving the trouble of a reply please direct there.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) N. P. BEYTS,
Assist. Supt. Rev. Sur. and Assessment, Guzerat.

Kaira Districts, 20th May 1861.

No. 113 OF 1861.

N. P. BEYTS, Esq.,
Assist. Supt. Rev. Sur. and Assessment in Guzerat.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge your letter dated 20th May, on the subject of cotton cultivation in Guzerat.

One of the best books on cotton cultivation is that by Dr. Forbes Royle, which, although somewhat diffuse and defec-

tive in many respects, contains much useful information respecting former experiences in the experimental cultivation of cotton. If you have it not already, the Chamber will endeavour to procure it for you; meanwhile, I am instructed to send you the Reports of this Chamber for the last two years, in which you will find, under the head of "cotton cultivation," all the papers that have come into the possession of the Chamber during those years.

The Committee look forward with interest to your promised paper on the perennial cotton plant indigenous in your locality.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 18th June 1861.

No. 102 OF 1861.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

From Major C. BUCKLE,
Political Agent, Rewa Kanta,
To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—I have the honor to request the favour of your forwarding to me, at Baroda, ten pounds of New Orleans cotton seed, for an experiment to be made in this Purgunna.

2. Lieutenant Atkinson, of the Guzerat Bheel Corps, will superintend the experiment, and I shall have the honor of communicating to you the result.

3. The elevation of the Purgunna is about the same as that of Indore. I should be much obliged for instructions as to time of planting.

4. It should be mentioned that the district will become British after 1st May next.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) C. BUCKLE, Major,
Political Agent.

Rewa Kanta Agency, Camp Dohud, 1st March 1861.

No. 24 of 1861.

To Major C. Buckle,
Political Agent, Rewa Kanta, Camp Dohud.

Sir,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge your letter of 1st instant, and have the honor to inform you that the Chamber has this year received a supply of Egyptian seed only. I therefore send you 10lb. of it by bhangy. That you may not be without New Orleans seed to try, I have written at their request to friends at Gudduk in Dharwar, Messrs. Robertson & Everitt, who will forward to you ten pounds of the best New Orleans cotton seed of this year's crop, and which is more likely to give a satisfactory result than seed brought from America, as the latter usually loses much of its vegetative power before it can be sown in India.

I refer to a memorandum herewith respecting the supposed best mode of cultivation, and have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. Brooke,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 14th March 1861.

No. 428 of 1861.

To the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce,
Bombay.

Memorandum.

Major Buckle has the honor to forward extracts of letters from Lieutenant Atkinson, at Dohud, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, and would be glad of a reply on the subject of that gentleman's application for a gin and plough. The Chamber will observe that Lieutenant Atkinson takes considerable interest in the introduction of cotton into his country, and though beginnings must be small, it may be very well worth while to give them every encouragement. There are indications of attention to the subject in two others of the States of this Agency.

(Signed) C. Buckle, Major,
Political Agent.

Rewa Kanta Agency, Baroda, 3rd August 1861.

Extracts from Letters from Lieutenant ATKINSON, *dated 21st and 31st July* 1861.

"I went to Kurreedeé and Ookeree two days ago, to inspect the cotton planted there. They were very attentive to it, and seemed to take a great deal of interest in it. The crop looked remarkably healthy indeed. Ookeree is a village with 'black soil'; Kurredee very much like Dohud, with a light loamy soil. I am afraid the season will be too wet for a good crop of cotton. I was reading the other day that cotton required a very dry climate, like Egypt. Some of my plants are a foot high."

"Some time ago, Messrs. Mosley & Hurst, of Calcutta or Agra (I don't know which), the agents of the Manchester Cotton Supply Association, advertised that they would issue a cotton gin gratis to every person who would undertake to sow (and cultivate) ten acres with cotton. I believe they also offered a patent plough in addition, on the same terms, to any one cultivating 15 acres. I dare say you could manage to get one of each for us. If so, I have no doubt the value of the cotton raised here will be much enhanced. The gin will turn out the cotton much cleaner than the primitive Native churka could possibly do. If the Chamber of Commerce can send us up a gin, I should prefer Dr. Forbes's improved Churka, as I think I understand the working of it, as I fancy I saw it at work several times at his workshop at Dharwar in 1857.

"The specimen plough is still more required, as the Native one now in use here is almost worthless; it does not penetrate more than four inches, and in a virgin soil like ours, filled as it is with a regular net-work of grass-roots and suckers, something more effective is required. If, however, the new plough is heavy, and not easily worked by a common pair of *half-starved* bullocks, we shall never be able to introduce it into the districts.

"The people interested in the growth of cotton have subscribed largely in Manchester and other places with the view of distributing these machines gratuitously in India, so our applying for them will not look odd."

(True extracts)

(Signed) C. BUCKLE, Major,
Political Agent.

No. 157 of 1861.

To Major C. Buckle,
Political Agent, Rewa Kanta Agency, Baroda.

Sir,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your memorandum No. 428 of 1861, dated 3rd August, and to state in reply that the cotton gins sent out to them by the Cotton Supply Association (viz. the Macarthy and Manklyn gins) appear next to useless for the intended purpose. A number of Dr. Forbes's cottage churkas, admirably adapted to clean either Native or Egyptian cotton, have been imported by the firm of Wm. Nicol & Co., who are supplying them to experimental cotton-growers at the cost price, viz. Rs. 85 each. Should you wish to obtain one of these, the Chamber will be happy to forward it to you.

The ploughs sent out by the Association are light, and appear suitable to the class of animals alluded to by Lieutenant Atkinson: one of these implements is placed at your disposal free of cost.

The Committee are glad to observe the increasing interest with which the cultivation of cotton is being regarded, and trust that the numerous experiments now in course of trial may be successful.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. Brooke,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 15th August 1861.

No. 380 of 1861.

Political Department.

From Major C. Buckle,
Political Agent in the Rewa Kanta,

To the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce,
Bombay.

Sir,—I have a very favourable account from Lieutenant Atkinson, Dohud, of the present appearance of the plants produced from the Egyptian seed you sent me. That

officer writes that it has "taken to the ground splendidly, and the plants are exceedingly healthy." Its success also appears to be anticipated by the Natives.

2. Lieutenant Atkinson would like to have 10lb. more seed.

3. In reply to the circulars issued from this office to the different Native States of the Agency, I have received letters from the Rajahs of Loonawarra and Barreah, intimating their intention of turning their attention to the cultivation of cotton, and applying for seed. It is probable that the Chamber will consider that these small openings should be turned to account, and if it is not too late in the season, I shall be glad to have such quantity of seed as may be transmitted. The Rajghur Purgunna in Barreah, in which it is proposed to try the experiment of introducing cotton, is within easy distance of the Baroda line.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) C. BUCKLE, Major,
Political Agent.

Rewa Kanta Agency, Camp Baroda, 11th July 1861.

Extracts of Letters from Lieutenant ATKINSON, *dated the 8th and 9th August* 1861.

"*8th August* 1861.—Perhaps the Chamber would like to see a specimen [marked A] of the Dohud cotton. I think it very good myself, and would like to know what it will fetch per lb. or candy in the Bombay market.

"This specimen is from some seed I got in Dohud last year, and not from the Egyptian or New Orleans seed sent us for trial by the Chamber.

"I find that 2,000 maunds or 84,000lb. of cotton are consumed annually in Dohud alone. I send you specimens. It comes from Taundla, Rutlam, Kookseè, Pitlaud, and Guzerat. The price of the *uncleaned* specimen in the market at present may be said to be 5 Co.'s Rupees per maund of 42lb. [=Rs. 93 per candy of 784lb.] The price of the cleaned specimen is nearly 7 Co.'s Rupees [=Rs. 131 per candy of 784 lb.] for the same quantity.

The market rate for transport to Baroda is 8 new Syasaee annas or 7 Co.'s annas per maund (42lb.).

"I would like to know what the Railway Company rates will be from Baroda to Bombay for cotton, as before we are able to send any large supplies to market, no doubt the rail will be open all through.

"I have had the specimen of my 'cotton' valued here. They say it is worth 6½ Rupees per maund in its present state. If I could find out what it is worth in Bombay, and the cost of transit, I could calculate whether it would pay to send it there.

"I believe we can always calculate upon getting cotton of as good quality as that I send as sample, although perhaps not so clean; and if it will do for the Bombay market, and I can only prove to the Bheels that it will pay better than grain, this place (*i. e.* Punch Mahal) will in time be able to supply as much cotton as the Broach and Kaira Collectorates together. This would be irrespective of the large area comprised in the Native States of Barreah, Loonawarra, Soanth, &c., and which is also fit for its cultivation."

"*9th August* 1861.—I send you two other specimens of cotton grown in Dohud. They have come from Brahmins' gardens, and the plants have not had much care bestowed on their cultivation. The tree which produces the larger sample is exactly similar in its foliage to the Egyptian variety grown from the seed sent us by the Chamber, but the seeds are considerably larger. The smaller sample is very much like the specimen I sent you yesterday, only very much dirtier—the seed being exactly similar. I find the plants are very prolific, and I have no doubt now of the success of our experiment. It only remains to be seen whether the cotton crop will pay better than grain, and to find this out, I would like to know what *these* [marked B] samples are worth, as the staple turned out by the ryots will of course not be so clean as the sample sent by me yesterday."

(True extracts)

(Signed) C. BUCKLE, Major,
Political Agent.

To Major C. BUCKLE,

Rewa Kanta Agency, Camp Baroda.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 380, dated 11th July, and memorandum No. 447, dated 12th ult., forwarding samples of cotton received from Lieutenant Atkinson.

I forwarded to you per banghy on the 18th July 10lb. of Egyptian cotton seed, which I trust came duly to hand.

The samples sent were rather too small to admit of a close valuation, but the following is a near approximation:—

Middling Orleans, assumed to be worth 8*d.*

	Value per lb. in Liverpool.	Value per Candy of 784lb. in Bombay.
A.—Good colour, quite clean, fine long silky staple.	9*d.*	Rs. 215
No mark—Cleaned Foreign Cotton.—Fair colour, nearly clean, short wasty staple	5½*d.*	145
Uncleaned ditto.—Bad colour, a little leaf, staple very weak and poor	3¾*d.* to 4*d.*	115
B.—Middling colour, stained, fine long but rather mixed staple.....	6¾*d.*	170
B, Second quality.—Bad colour, staple perished..	4*d.*	115

It is evident, from the above prices, that it would not be profitable to send the lower qualities to Bombay for sale; and it must likewise be borne in mind, that small quantities of cotton, however good, would not fetch their value in this market, or even in Liverpool. Nothing less than 100 candies of one quality would realise the full value.

You will doubtless remark the great difference in value between clean sound cotton, and that which is dirty and partially perished, and it may be observed that the only mode in which fine cotton can be obtained is to pick it either daily, as it ripens, or every three days at the latest. After the boll opens, every day's delay in picking it may be taken to be represented by ⅛*d.* to ¼*d.* per lb.

I shall be shortly enabled to send you that portion of the Report of the Chamber of Commerce which refers to cotton cultivation, and contains many papers of interest.—I have the honor to be, &c., (Signed) H. BROOKE,

Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 10*th Sept.* 1861.

To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of the two packets of cotton seeds you were good enough to send me in August last, and to report the results of the planting.

The Black Seed.—Not more than 30 per cent. came up. These were healthy-looking plants, thriving fairly till they were a month old, when a small kind of fly attacked them. The first leaves dropped off; the second leaves turned red; and now the plants are two months old, although strong, they are very stunted. They may be considered a failure.

The Green Seed.—Not 5 per cent. came up. These died off, except here and there, where a solitary plant thrived. They, like those from the black seed, are very stunted, and may be considered a total failure.

These failures, I am satisfied, arose from the seed being sown too late in the season. The soil was chilled, wet, and heavy, from the heavy rain which fell in August. The plants which did come up were not sufficiently advanced at the end of last month to resist the attacks of insects, and had not struck deep enough to reach the moist soil after the rains were over; so that the present heavy night dews, followed by a scorching sun, must injure them.

I see no reason why the introduction of exotic cotton should not be attended with success, if the seed supplied is good, and ready for sowing by the 20th June at latest, the first rain-fall being usually between the 5th and 15th of the month. The soil and climate I believe to be particularly favourable, and there are a number of intelligent Native farmers who would be only too glad to obtain good seed even by purchase. To give you an instance. One of the packets received by banghy had burst on the road, and of course the contents were known before it came into my hands. Two well-to-do farmers had requested the Collector of the district to obtain for them a few seeds of what they called Belaitee kuppas, which they heard had come to me through the dawk.

I have an idea that the introduction of exotic cotton to a district where the ryotwaree system is in force cannot as an experiment turn out well, the cultivators having no capital, and not being able to lend land and labour for a crop with a doubtful return. Successful results I believe can only

be obtained in such a province as this, where each village is a farm, the farmers usually pretty well off, and not entirely dependent on a few fields. They are intelligent and reasonable, and would be ready to carry out any cultivation, or act upon any advice which they thought would bring in an extra rupee gain.

I should feel very much obliged if you could furnish me with a working drawing of the most approved description of churka or gin,—I mean one simple in construction, and which could be made up in such a town as this at a reasonable price. The churka used here is a miserable affair, and quite unfit for short staple.

If you consider a few personal observations on the resources of these districts would be of any interest to the gentlemen of the Chamber, I shall be happy to forward them from time to time as leisure permitted. The following would be the leading subjects:—

The introduction of capital for the purpose of farming land.

The establishment of agencies for the collection of produce, prevention of frauds, and correction of the present system of cultivation.

On the cultivation of cotton, hemp, and other fabrics; oil seeds, and opium.

On the collection of gums, dye-stuffs, and tanning materials.

On iron and timber.

Any one of these might claim the attention of enterprising firms, as being profitable investments.—Yours obediently,

(Signed) H. VICTOR.

Hurdah, Saugor and Nerbudda Territories, Oct. 12th, 1860.

No. 123 OF 1860.

To H. VICTOR, Esq.,
Hurdah.

DEAR SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 12th ultimo, the information contained in which has been read with interest.

The Committee would suggest, that if kept weeded occasionally, it is not improbable that the cotton plants that have survived the late heavy dews and hot sun will be found to throw out new shoots in January, and give a partial crop in May, when sufficient seed may be obtained to enable you to renew the experiment. If the plants are cut down to about a foot high in May, it is not improbable that you will find that in the second year both Egyptian and American will be more prolific than in the first year.

The Chamber will gladly receive any information relative to the prospective development of trade when the railway shall be completed to your district.

I shall have the pleasure shortly to send you the Annual Report of the Chamber, in which you will doubtless find many papers, particularly on the cultivation of cotton, which will repay your perusal.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 10th November 1860.

Report on the Hoshungabad Districts of the Nerbudda Valley.

THE North-Eastern Extension of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, now in course of construction, will open up and tend to develope the resources of one of the most fertile and productive districts of Central India, the Nerbudda Valley.

The produce of this part of the country, until within the last few years, has been entirely cut off from the Bombay market, in consequence of the wretched state of road communication with the south, and the great distance and excessive rates of carriage. It therefore found its way to the nearest markets—on the north the Ganges districts, on the west the Indore States, according to the demand, the return imports being sugar from the first quarter, and English piece goods and Bombay supplies through Indore. As the railway, however, will form a direct and cheap route to a better market, of course it will be taken advantage of by the local merchants, and no doubt many of the Mem-

bers of the Chamber will in the course of two or three years have business transactions in this direction. With this idea, I submit a few notes, which may prove interesting.

I will confine myself to that portion of the Nerbudda Valley extending from the Saktha river and Nimar States in the south, to the Towa river, which enters the Nerbudda a few miles above Hoshungabad, a tract of country about 100 miles long, by 20 or 30 broad.

Following the course of this railway, on entering the Hurdah purgunna, the first 10 miles is nearly all jungle land, lightly wooded, covered with low scrub and long grass. This description of country extends from the Nerbudda to the Kallee Bheet jungles and Baitool districts. The country improves rapidly, approaching Hurdah, and from that place up to the Towa river very little jungle is met with, and the land pretty fairly cultivated, but exhibiting want of system, capital, roads, and markets. Probably not more than one-half of the culturable land is tilled, from want of hands, and what is worked is so so slovenly, that one can see the cultivators hold more land than their means will allow them to work properly. The description of the crops, besides, suited to the soil, are marked as for local consumption, wheat being the staple. Very little of the cotton raised travels far, and only holds an inferior position as regards the area of cultivation, one-sixteenth being about the average devoted to that crop. The want of roads in this particular is evident, although the Natives have an idea that cotton does not thrive well. This is entirely a mistake; the soil is capable of raising almost any crop to perfection, if it is properly treated; for where cotton has received some little attention, the yield is fair. It is not to be expected, though, to turn out profitable, as it is usually cultivated with pulse, pumpkins, and weeds at the bottom, and toor dhall overtopping the plants. The picking is generally delayed till the cotton is dropping, when a lot of rubbish gets mixed with it, and no care is taken in keeping different sorts separate, the cultivator packing clean and dirty, long and short fibre, all together, off to the Buniahs as quick as he can, just to realise what it will fetch.

As the cotton supply appears to be the most important consideration, I will enter a little more into the details of the

subject, taking the "queries" of the Cotton Supply Association as a guide.

1*st*, *Beraree.*—Short, strong, harsh.
2*nd*, *Deshee.*—Short, tender, silky.
3*rd*, *Nandunbund.*—Long, tender, silky.
[See Chamber's sample No. 25.]

The 1*st*, BERAREE, is not cultivated to any considerable extent, from want of seed. Both the ryots and Buniahs prefer it to any other, the first from the plants coming up strong and healthy, giving a greater yield of kuppas, a greater proportion of clean cotton, and that it keeps close in the pod, without gathering rubbish. The dealers look to the strength of the fibre, and its freedom from impurities. The men who weave the coarse cotton cloth of the country *(dungaree)* use up nearly all that is raised, the weavers in many instances being the growers.

The cultivation of 10 acres, and average return thereon, is—

10 acres, land rent.....	Rs. 15	0	0
Planting labour	12	0	0
3 maunds (240lb.) seed	2	8	0
Weeding.....	7	0	0
Picking, hucks, &c. &c.....	2	0	0
1st picking, 1,440lb. kuppas.	Rs. 38	8	0
2nd do. 480lb. do.			
Kuppas 1,920lb., at 32lb. per rupee	Rs. 60	0	0
[=64lb. clean cotton per acre.]			
Profit to cultivator....	Rs. 21	8	0

Or say Rs. 2 per acre.

The dealer's account stands thus:—

1,920lb. kuppas, at 32lb. per rupee .....Rs.	60	0	0
Cleaning the same, at 24lb. per rupee	8	0	0
	Rs. 68	0	0
640lb. clean cotton, at 10lb. per rupee.....Rs.	64	0	0
Seed as cattle food, 100lb. per rupee, say ...	2	0	0
	Rs. 76	0	0

Dealer's profit on 10 acres of produce Rs. 8, or Rs. 0-12-0 per acre.

2nd, DESHEE.—The cultivation of this description is of three times greater extent than the *Beraree*. Neither the cultivator nor dealer fancies it much; the former looks on it as a doubtful crop, and, if thriving, not very remunerative. His calculations on 10 acres are—

Cost of cultivation, as before ..... Rs.	38	0	0
Yield 1,440lb. kuppas, at 56lb. per rupee..	40	0	0
Leaving him only, as profit on the 10 acres... Rs.	2	0	0

The dealer's account is—

1,440lb. kuppas, at 36lb. per rupee ..... Rs.	40	0	0
Cleaning, as before.....	6	0	0
Rs.	46	0	0
400lb. clean cotton, at 10lb. per rupee .... Rs.	40	0	0
Cotton seed	10	4	0
Profit, Rs. 4-4-0. Rs.	50	4	0

3rd, NANDUNBUND.—There are only a few plants here and there in the district, and these are in gardens. The wool is used by the Brahmins for their sacred thread. I have met with two different varieties, both tall shrubs, 7 or 8 feet high, spreading, and of about six years' growth. The Natives consider it exotic cotton, and are anxious to obtain seed. One shrub bears a bright yellow flower, dark green spotted leaves, with bolls as large as a walnut. I counted on it upwards of 400 bolls. This plant had been irrigated. One or two seeds in each boll had been attacked by insects. The other shrub has scandent branches, dark claret-coloured flowers, small dark brown leaves; bolls small, but numerous; seeds green, many attacked by insects. This had not been irrigated.

It stands to reason, that when cotton cultivation is not remunerative, it will be neglected. The intelligent farmers are alive to this fact, and are particularly anxious to obtain good seed and raise cotton for export. They are quite prepared to try any experiment, and are willing to act upon any suggestions which are plain and simple enough for them to

see the benefit of. The few pounds of American and Egyptian seed I distributed among them last season failed in their hands: notwithstanding this circumstance, they have expressed an earnest desire to be supplied with more seed in time for sowing. They attribute last year's failure to the lateness of sowing, it being, according to their account, 40 days behind time. With clean cotton in the bazar here at 2¼*d.* per lb., the carriage to Bombay nearly ½*d.* per lb. more, and the article of an inferior description, it is clear that it would scarcely pay to export it. The introduction and cultivation of foreign seed is necessary before any great supply can reach the Bombay market. There are now three years before us to extend the cultivation, and by that time the railway will be completed.

There are five classes of soil, placed below according to their value, with the description of crop suited to each:

1*st*, MOORUM.—Light loam, free from kunkur and stones, generally at the top of undulating ground not scoured by drainage. The crops giving the greatest return on this soil are wheat, linseed, red til, and gram. The rental is about Rs. 2 per acre.

2*nd*, KABUR.—Is a mixture of moorum and black soil; it raises to perfection cotton, rice, black til, dhall, and gram. Rent Rs. 1½ per acre.

3*rd*, RANKUR.—Is partially impoverished 1st class soil, and low-lying black soil, producing jowar, cotton, dhall, and common cereals. Rent Rs. 1 per acre.

4*th* and 5*th*, WANKUR and RORUD.—Are two inferior classes—stony or swamp and grass land; requires manuring for successive crops. It is then generally converted into garden ground.

Moorum becomes impoverished in about five years, when it is allowed to lay fallow for two or three seasons, or is manured by ploughing in a standing crop of sunn (hemp). The greatest area of cleared land is *Kabur*. New clearing is usually of the 1st class, according to its position, and the first crops raised after the timber is filled, and before the stumps are taken out, are gram and oil seeds. The principal and best paying crops are wheat, gram, linseed, and red til. On 10 acres of land, the following is the cost of cultivation of each crop, the return of produce, and profit to the cultivator.

Grains.	Land Rent.	Seed.	Sowing.	Reaping.	Total Cost of Cultivation.	Produce Weight.	Produce Value.	Profit to Cultivator.
Wheat..	First class soil, Rs. 20.	1,440lb., at 80 per. Rupee, Rs. 18.	Preparing the ground, and sowing, Rs. 12.	Protecting crop, hedging, and reaping, Rs. 5.	Rs. 55.	9,600lb.	Rs. 120.	Rs. 65.
Linseed..	The same, Rs. 20.	Rs. 4.	The same, Rs. 12.	The same, Rs. 5.	Rs. 41.	5,760lb.	Rs. 96.	Rs. 55.
Red Til..	2nd class soil, Rs. 15.	Rs. 0-6-0.	The same, Rs. 12.	The same, Rs. 5.	Rs. 32-6-0.	3,840lb.	Rs. 64.	Rs. 31-10-0.
Gram...	The same, Rs. 15.	Rs. 12.	The same, Rs. 12.	The same, Rs. 5.	Rs. 44.	5,760lb.	Rs. 60.	Rs. 16.

The above is an average throughout of cost, crop, and market rate. Add 10 per cent. for dealers' profits, and Rs. 2-8-0 per maund of 80lb. for carriage, gives the probable value of the produce in the Bombay market. The result shows that carriage to a distant market is not profitable.

The average fall of rain is about 30 inches; the setting in of the monsoon is usually in the early part of June, when there is a heavy rain-fall for about three days. Within a week after this the sowing of cotton, jowar, dhall, rice, and til, commences; the next three weeks the weather is fair, with occasional light showers, followed by another heavy fall. By this time the crops are fairly above ground. Variable weather until the middle of August. The greatest quantity of rain falls at this period—usually incessant for a week; then light showers, with fair weather till the middle of September, when the rains are considered at an end. In October the heat is great, and night dews heavy; if the soil is light enough, the sowing of wheat, gram, and linseed, is commenced about the middle of the month. The first picking of cotton is in the middle of November: by that time the night dews are light, and the days cool. Towards the end of November the north-east wind sets in, the nights are cold, thermometer occasionally falling to freezing-point. Between sunrise and noon the temperature varies in the shade 40° or 50°. The second cotton picking is about a month after the first. Now and then a third picking in February. The cotton is usually injured by rain. Light showers in the last week of November and December, and middle of January. Towards the end of February the reaping of dry crops is in hand. March, light showers; wind changes to the north-west, blowing hot. April and May hot, thermometer rising to 110° in the shade. Towards the end of May, wind strong and variable, weather cloudy, the thermometer going down. Climate considered very healthy in open land; in the rains, light attacks of diarrhœa. October and November, fever very prevalent; jungle land dangerous. March and April, cholera season; never very severe. May, fever and small-pox among the Natives. The climate for European constitutions is preferable to that of the Konkun or Deccan. Should the rains not set in till the end of June, thus delaying the sowing of the cotton crop till the middle of July, the yield is considerably affected, as the young plants are not strong enough to

stand the heavy rains of August, are in a weakly state when subjected to the extremes of temperature of October, and seldom exceed two feet in height, each plant bearing about seven well developed bolls, whereas the same plant, if healthy, should bear 22. The Natives believe in early sowing, but not before the first rain-fall. Irrigation is unknown, but the cultivators think one or two waterings, as the plants may require them, would be beneficial. Their reason for not troubling themselves about irrigation is, that the deep cracked soil would take more money to saturate it than the increase in the value of the crop raised would cover. The only wet crop of any importance is rice; that is sown in natural swamps. All other watered crops are considered garden produce, as opium, ginger, and turmeric.

The system of land tenure is the *Malgoozaree* or farming, and *Zemindaree:* if the first, the farmer rents a village under Government for short periods, until a permanent settlement is carried out, and sub-lets the land to cultivators upon yearly agreements. At the temporary settlement in 1844, when this district was received from Holkar, from want of a proper survey, the villages were let at a very low figure, a guess area being taken, and assessed accordingly. The detail of the assessment was entrusted to Natives, who were no doubt well feed, and according to the value of the consideration so they entered the rental in the register. The following two extreme cases show plainly the amount of land revenue lost to Government. One village of about 7,000 acres actual measurement, but down in the Government books as 3,000, pays an annual revenue of about Rs. 2,000. Now two-thirds of that land is first class, paying the farmer Rs. 2 per acre. In the other case, one man holds upwards of 120 villages in the jungle portion of the district, and pays Government Rs. 1,200 per annum. The amount of rent from four of those villages alone is more than the Government assessment on the whole. Many of the villages in jungle land do not pay Government more than Rs. 5 each. A short time since, the farming of a village was in the market as an experiment. I bid Rs. 5 for it; no one offering more, I became the farmer of a village nearly 500 acres in extent, 200 being first class soil, half of that cultivated, and returning Rs. 50 a year without any trouble whatever. Of course, when the permanent settlement comes round, a cor-

rect survey will be made, and an annual rental fixed according to the area under cultivation. This does not suit the farmers, so, to meet it, they are beginning to let a large extent of land run to jungle, having an idea that when the land comes to be assessed upon all under cultivation, the fixed rental will be a low one. As soon as that is settled, the jungle will be cleared away, and the land brought under cultivation again.

There are some hundreds of square miles of unoccupied land, within a short distance of the railway, that might be obtained from Government on clearing leases. To bring any large extent at once into cultivation, it would be necessary to import labour, upon a moderate scale at first, so as to start the work; and it is my opinion that sufficient labour would soon find its way to estates held by Europeans. The soil is as good as any other in the district, and I believe there is nothing to prevent an extensive cultivation of cotton with a profitable return, with labour and capital to raise it, and a railway within a few miles to convey the produce to a good market at a reasonable rate. The terms of clearing leases in the North-West Provinces may be considered favourable. Each estate is not to exceed 4,000 acres of culturable land, the holding being for fifty years, the first three years rent-free, the assessment being on three-fourths of the area of culturable land, commencing the fourth year with a rental of 15 annas for every 100 acres liable to assessment, and reaching the maximum rate (Rs. 76-14-0) in the twenty-ninth year. The lease-holder has to commence clearing the first year, and to bring into cultivation three-fourths of the culturable area in the first twenty years of the lease, or one-twentieth of the whole area every year. There is a reasonable prospect of remuneration to any European taking such leases. Field labour is cheap, on account of the low price of food. If the estate is worked independently, it will require an outlay of about six annas for every acre cleared. This could be brought under cultivation at once, and pay its expenses the first year, with a favourable balance if sub-leases are issued. A piece of land could be marked off for any applicant, allowing him ten acres for every pair of bullocks he could command. While the party is clearing the land, and before a rental is fixed, the landlord would have to find food for men and cattle; this advance being paid from the first crop raised.

The produce of the hilly and jungly portions of the district requires development. At present very little can be done that way: the quantity now collected is entirely for local consumption. Rice is one of the principal crops raised by the Gonds, who dispose of it to Buniahs at about 40lb. per rupee, the selling price in the bazar being 25lb. They also raise a good description of sunn (hemp), similar in quality to Jubbulpoor sunn. It is of good colour, well cleaned, long and strong fibre, selling at 14lb. per rupee, the common dirty-coloured coarse fibre being 22lb. per rupee. Tanning materials are represented in an unlimited quantity by catechu, pullas, or dāk gum, and the bark and fruit of a number of trees, all supplied very cheap. Dyes are numerous, the principal being the flowers of the pullas tree *(Butea frondosa)*, for yellow and orange. Small quantities of lac are collected, and sold cheap. All the dye-stuffs require a demand to bring them forward in any quantity. Teak timber is obtainable in any quantity, at a low rate, the cost by the time it reaches the railway line being 6 or 8 annas per cubic foot. There are other descriptions of timber equally good for domestic purposes, at half the price. As miscellaneous produce may be classed bees'-wax, sambur horns and skins, mowah oil, flowers, and spirits, bael fruit, cassia fistula, cheronge nuts, and gums.

About 12 miles to the south-west of Hurdah, iron (hematite) is found in considerable quantities, is easily raised, but not worked much. The metal is of good quality, and sells at the rate of 24 seers (48lb.) per rupee, as taken from the pot. Although the ore is rich, the Natives, by their rude smelting operations, do not obtain from it more than 10 per cent. of metal. The slag they throw aside would be valuable to Europeans with proper forges. Fuel is plentiful, and limestone at hand. No flux is used by the people engaged in the manufacture, nor is the ore roasted.

Soucars (money-lenders) carry on a pretty thriving business in this part of the country, their rates of interest upon cash loans being very high, often 50 per cent. per annum. When grain is advanced—as for instance wheat for sowing,—for 1 maund of seed they receive in five months 1½ maunds of produce. In the case of advance of food to the hill people, for 1 maund of jowar, in six months is paid 1 maund of rice—equal to about 200 per cent. profit. For cashing

cheques on Bombay houses, 4 and 5 per cent. is charged. Hoondies at sight on Bombay cost from 4 to 7 per cent. Exchange is at 14 annas per rupee silver. Many of the soucars are farmers of villages, besides carrying on extensive export and import transactions.

From November till March there are several large fairs for the distribution of imports, there being a great demand for cotton goods, cocoanuts, salt, and spices from the Bombay side, Native female apparel from Nagpoor, and sugar from Benares. The bazar price for common unbleached cotton cloth is 5 or 6 yards per rupee. The coarse cloth manufactured in the district is sold at about 10 yards per rupee, the stuff being generally 26 inches.

When once the railway is open to Bombay, a direct agency would be both a boon to the cultivator and a profitable arrangement for any merchant at the port. The cultivator would get a fair price for his produce, and the merchant secure it unsophisticated. European agency would not pay except where subordinate Native agency is employed; then it should extend along the whole valley up to Jubbulpoor, upon this system. The establishment of stores at the following places—Kundwa (Nimar), Hurdah, Hoshungabad, Nursingpoor, and Jubbulpoor, engaging Natives to work the receipts of produce and distribution of imports, while the European superintends the whole, keeps his Native agents in check, enlists the confidence of Native dealers and cultivators, suggests improvements in the system of cultivation where they might be required, and for the development of any particular branch of trade. The Jubbulpoor establishment would accommodate the Calcutta through traffic, as well as the business of the surrounding districts. Nursingpoor is in the heart of the coal and iron fields, and produces the best cotton at present in the valley. Hoshungabad commands the traffic of the Bhopal state, and portions of the North Berar District. Hurdah is in immediate communication with the Indore and Gwalior states, and would be a depôt for Malwa, and part of Rajpootana; and Kundwa the receiving station for opium through Indore.

Hydraulic presses, for packing fibre and expressing oil, might be set up at Hurdah and Jubbulpoor, and worked with a saving to the exporter, besides performing local orders,

particularly as regards oil: by the Native process, til seed only yields about 20 per cent. of oil.

Any improvements likely to extend the trade and commerce of the district must be introduced gradually, and be of such a nature that the Natives may readily understand their utility and value. The most effective manner in which anything in that way could be done, in my opinion, is by Europeans taking farms or estates, on clearing leases. On their land all the necessary improvements might be exhibited, with a solid practical illustration, far more effective with ignorant prejudiced Natives than stretching their imagination beyond its usual limits. I believe any advantageous system of cultivation, if thus put before the ryots and farmers, would be adopted throughout the district in a single season after a trial. I have conversed with intelligent farmers, holding very extensive estates, several having from 10 to 20,000 acres of land under cultivation, upon the extension of cotton produce, and the picking, cleaning, and packing of the article. Their first demand is for seed which would give a description of cotton superior to that they now raise, and which would pay to export. The next is for better cleaning apparatus. The third, for some means for packing and transport, or delivery, that would save them from the frauds practised by the Native dealers between the field and the coast. If the cultivation of the foreign plant succeeded, they would then raise crops of any quantity to order, without advances, from year to year. They tell me, that if the cotton turned out as well here as it has done in some parts of the Southern Mahratta Country—and they believe it would,—in three years at least one-third of their land would be devoted to it; their reasoning being this—that if 10 acres of land can be cultivated with good cotton at the same prices as when bad seed is used, viz. Rs. 38 or Rs. 40, the yield being only say 70lb. of clean cotton per acre, of the local value of 2½*d.* per lb., the profit per acre would then approach that of their best crops, and thus would ensure its cultivation every alternate year on an extensive scale.

The cultivators and farmers would be glad to have European landlords in their districts, or agencies for the ready disposal of their produce. They express themselves as feeling a sense of security in their dealings with Europeans, and a confidence in their straightforward character. Where Eu-

ropeans are located, a change in the right direction would be soon felt, particularly as nine-tenths of the agriculturists are in the hands of the Buniahs or money-lenders, who rob them every way. Money advances would not be advisable, either in an experiment or the working of an estate. In the case of farmers trying foreign cotton cultivation, an advance of seed is necessary, but should be made on condition that if the crop turned out well, the seed should be paid for at the price any other farmer might offer for such a quantity after the first season. Where estates were held, the cultivators, if necessary, would work on what is called the *Buttai* system—that is, the farmer giving the land rent-free, finding oxen and seed; the ryot giving his labour: the crop, when collected, being equally shared. While the crop is in the ground, the farmer advances food, which is returned at the time of division.

In the system of cultivation, great improvements might be introduced, the advantages of irrigation exhibited, and the use and manufacture of improved agricultural instruments. All the implements now used are of the most primitive character: their ploughs should be heavier—the Native drill answers its purpose pretty well. Scarifiers and harrows are wanted, and threshing and winnowing machines would save a great deal of the time which might be more advantageously employed in opening the ground. It is the same here as in almost every part of India—time is of no consideration: the people are over head and ears in debt; and, as is always the case where nature is most prolific, no trouble is ever taken to nurse it. The best cultivators are the Jats and Goojurs, who are usually well provided with cattle. The Gonds are good men for clearing jungle, but not easily bound to any engagement. A great peculiarity among them is their adherence to truth, and keen sense of anything like injustice. The Bildar class are excavators by trade; there are families of them in all the large villages, but they wander from place to place according to the demand for labour, their rates of work being 12 cubic yards of excavation in earth for Rs. 1, or Rs. 2 for every 100 roots and stumps dug out in clearing jungle. Cultivators are generally paid in kind, at about Rs. 2¼ of corn per month, and a blanket, turban, or piece of cloth each year. In clearing jungle, one man in a year can turn out 60 acres. He

fells the timber during the cold season, and breaks ground just before the rains, waiting till the following season to take up the stumps. He is thus able to raise a crop while his work is in hand.

(Signed) HENRY VICTOR.

8th February, 1861.

MEMO.—Should any Member of the Chamber wish to obtain samples of the produce of this district, I shall be glad to forward small quantities.

If you can let me have some good cotton seed before June next (Dharwar seed might do), I will distribute it among the best farmers about here, who I am sure will try their utmost to produce a good crop.

No. 18 OF 1861.

To H. VICTOR, Esq.,
Hurdah.

DEAR SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your very interesting paper, dated 8th instant, referring to the prospective trade of the Nerbudda Valley. Your communication is now being circulated to the Members of the Chamber, some of whom may probably be induced to inquire further into the matter.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 19*th February* 1861.

To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—As the Chamber of Commerce takes very great interest in the introduction of the exotic cotton into Guzerat, and as I am desirous of giving it a fair trial, notwithstanding the many proofs I have already had of the success of such

experiments, which were, however, carried on on a limited scale, I hope you will be so good as to let me know, at an early date, whether you could make arrangements to send me up, for payment, some good seed. I am the occupant of some 60 acres of land in the Ahmedabad Duskrohie Purgunna, and intend (D. V.) to establish a farm.

I am convinced that if the Natives could be persuaded to take a little more pains with their ground, they would succeed admirably: this I am endeavouring to do. I have been a great many years in Guzerat, and conclude, from my own experiments, and those of others, that the soil can be made very rich with a little pains.

The Native plough must be done away with—at all events improved; otherwise, the cultivator must not expect that with it he will ever be able to uproot the weeds, &c. which now interfere seriously with the advancement of exotic and indigenous plants.

I have made some experiments with the castor seed, &c., and am quite satisfied that very little blame is attributable to the soil on account of failures.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN STRIP,
Farmer.

Ahmedabad, 13*th March* 1861.

No. 32 OF 1861.

To JOHN STRIP, Esq.,
Ahmedabad.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 13th ultimo, and to inform you, in reply, that the Chamber is in possession of Egyptian cotton seed only, of which a bag of about 200lb. is placed at your disposal. Messrs. Peel, Cassels, & Co., the agents of the Cotton Supply Association of Manchester, will also supply you with an English plough, in order that you may be enabled to try your cotton experiment under more favourable conditions than with the Native implements.

It will, however, be necessary that you should appoint an agent either at Bombay or Surat, to receive the above arti-

cles, as the Chamber cannot undertake to forward them into the interior.

The Committee will arrange to forward to you a small parcel (say 10lb.) of acclimatised American cotton seed, from Dharwar: it has been found that the American seed imported from America seldom vegetates at all satisfactorily, and the supply has accordingly been discontinued.

Referring to a memorandum herewith on the supposed best mode of cultivating exotic cotton,—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 1st April 1861.

To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—I am much obliged to you for your communication of the 1st instant, and request you will have the goodness to tender my thanks to the Chamber of Commerce for the plough and Egyptian cotton seed placed at my disposal. I must trouble you to cause the plough and seed to be made over to Veerchund Deepchund, the agent of our millionaire, when he goes to receive it. Will you kindly accelerate the transmission of the acclimated cotton seed.

Pray assure the Chamber that I will send for the Patels (Headmen) of the surrounding villages, and will get them to persuade the cultivators to sow some of the Egyptian cotton seed.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN STRIP.

Ahmedabad, 15th April 1861.

To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—We have this day despatched two parcels by banghy to your address containing samples of saw-gin cotton as per margin.* On its arrival please kindly lay them before

* No. 1.—Oomrawuttee saw-gin cotton.
No. 2.—Khamgam saw-gin cotton.

the Members of the Chamber for their consideration and judgment, and kindly let us know the result of their opinion—whether we could carry on the traffic with profit or not.

The gins are taken up from the Government Factory at Dhurungaum, under the understanding that they are constructed in every respect with the latest improvements, without any injury to the staple.—We beg to remain, &c.,

(Signed) J. VEERASWAMY NAIK & Co.

Jaulnah, 21st February 1861.

No. 35 OF 1861.

To Messrs. J. VEERASWAMY NAIK & Co.,
Jaulnah.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 21st February, advising two samples of cotton, and requesting the opinion of the Chamber upon their quality.

No. 1, Oomrawuttee Saw-ginned, appears well cleaned and of good colour; but the staple is extremely short and irregular: its value would be perhaps Rs. 5 to 6 above Dhollera for the China market, but in Liverpool it would hardly realise as much as that description.

No. 2, Khamgam Saw-ginned, is badly cleaned, being full of small broken leaf, which is extremely objectionable. The staple is weak and irregular, and it would probably be difficult to find buyers at Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 under Dhollera.

It may be remarked, with reference to the use of the saw-gin, that it is only suited to those descriptions of cotton which, like American, have a very strong staple, adhering firmly to the seed. With the usual qualities of Native cotton, its use would materially reduce the value of the cotton below what it would have fetched if cleaned by the Native churka.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 5th April 1861.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following true and short account of the result of the cotton experiment which I tried at Nowsary, a place about twenty-four miles south of Surat. Though the result may seem not so satisfactory as can be desired, yet it holds out a vivid hope for better success in future.

The experiment was tried on a very small scale, on a piece of light porous soil, not exceeding an acre and a half in extent, containing a species of lime, which I believe to be the common kunkur.

The piece of land was divided into four parts, three of which were sown with the Egyptian, the New Orleans, and the Native cotton seeds, separately, on the 21st June, the fourth being reserved for an after experiment. Before sowing, the four parts were freed from the obnoxious weeds which the Native farmers allow to grow after reaping up their crops. A few showers of rain having softened the soil, the ploughing operation commenced, which was effected as well as the Native implements would permit. After this, the distinct species of cotton seeds were consigned to the soil, in ridges about two feet apart, for comparative experiments. About seven or eight days after the Egyptian and the Native seeds germinated, but the New Orleans did not, except a few here and there; therefore the same kind of seeds were again sown in the same soil, but with no better success. The seeds seemed to be too old, or were incapable of keeping up their germinative power for a time sufficient for their transmission from the place of their growth to India. At least such is the opinion of a well experienced Native farmer—well experienced, I mean, in the Native mode of culture, and I have good reason to believe his opinion to be correct. For the question whether a particular plant would grow at a particular place or not, might possibly and mainly depend on the considerations of the chemical constitution of the soil, and its mechanical condition, together with the meteorological state of the atmosphere. If either the chemical or the mechanical condition of the soil, or the state of the atmosphere—any of these three conditions, or the three conjointly—were uncongenial to the growth of the plants, not even one of them would have given a single boll of cotton, nor would it have seen the light

of the day. For if I mistake not, it is impossible for a plant, or any creature whatever, to continue to exist in defiance of the laws of nature—under conditions contrary to those assigned to them by nature. And as a few New Orleans seeds did germinate, and gave a few bolls of cotton, the failure perhaps is owing mainly to the defective state of the seeds. To come to the point: on the 4th August some of the plants, both the Egyptian and the Native, were top-dressed with the following manures:—the crude carbonate of potash, carbonate of soda, common salt, nitrate of soda, guano, and nitrate of soda and guano together, in due proportions. But these effected no appreciable change in the condition of the plants. In observing the rotation of crops, the Natives seldom manure their lands when they are about to grow cotton on them; and the result of the experiment, if I am right in inferring, justifies their practice. "Indeed, one chemist has inferred," observes Dr. Forbes Royle, "that probably more depended on the mechanical structure than on the chemical composition of the soil."

For the sake of experiment, a few of the seeds were sown in a black, rich, vegetable mould in a garden, and also in another soil fit for the growth of sugar-cane. There the plant attained the uncommon height of from six to seven feet, with luxuriant branches and green refreshing leaves; but very few bolls of cotton were seen.

The Egyptian cotton plant began to flower on or about the 1st September, and this was soon succeeded by cotton bolls. Some of the plants became fit to yield cotton on or about the 10th November. During the whole of October, the thermometer in the sunshine at times stood at 110° Fahr., so that the plants were reduced to a drooping condition, and the leaves were partially burnt up.

Had I the command of irrigation at the place, the plants would have been probably saved from the parching effects of the atmosphere. But this drooping state did not continue for a long time. The plants at last revived from their lethargic state, and shaking off their dull and drooping appearance, they attained a partially healthy condition, which made them fit to yield cotton, of which I have the honor to produce before you a specimen.

The after experiment was less than a total failure.

Thus, it would appear, that even in the very teeth of an

unfavourable season, the plants became capable of producing cotton; that under the concurrent congeniality of soil and climate, good seed can produce a better crop of foreign cotton in this part of India; and that English science, enterprise, and capital, if applied to the art of agriculture, would bring forth a wonderful and salutary effect. Science is ever ready to offer her helping hand to her sister Art, if the latter solicits aid from the former; and it is needless to say that agriculture in its present improved state among the civilised nations of the world shall remain in everlasting obligation to chemistry, geology, mechanics, &c.

A few passing remarks on the character of the Native farmers will not, I believe, be out of place here. They are taught from their infancy to imbibe the principles and follow the routine of their predecessors. The art of persuasion not unfrequently fails to induce them to adopt the means revealed by the light of modern science, and recommended by well experienced practitioners. In short, the farmers here adhere to their old practice, whether good or bad, with a degree of tenacity which baffles very many attempts to divert them from their long beaten track. To be well understood, I am far from imputing a general and sweeping censure on every farmer of the country,—for I feel my slight experience too inadequate to warrant a general conclusion.

I have endeavoured to procure correct information about the quantity of cotton per beega from more than one source. The accounts received fully corroborate that communicated by Mr. Landon of Broach and Dr. Forbes Royle. A beega produces on an average from five to six Surat maunds of kuppas (cotton on the seed). The average quantity of cotton and seed in the kuppas is in the ratio of one to three: in the experiment, I obtained cotton from the Egyptian seed at the rate of three maunds per beega; and this proportionately small quantity is owing, I believe, to the unfavourable season, for the plants were overwhelmed by frequent showers of rain at the time when they were adorned with flowers and bolls—a circumstance universally admitted as prejudicial to the yielding of a due quantity of kuppas.

I have heard that in the northern parts of Guzerat the average quantity per beega is from twelve to sixteen maunds; but I cannot venture to assert this as an undoubted fact. I

hope, however, to be soon able to determine the truth of this assertion, for the information of the Cotton Supply Association.

It would be a sort of ingratitude on my part not to mention the name of Narbhaeram Manishunker, my coadjutor, who gave material assistance in carrying out the experiment. —I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) NUSSERWANJEE BOMANJEE,
Schoolmaster at Nowsary.

Nowsary English School, 28th April 1861.

To Mr. NUSSERWANJEE BOMANJEE,
Schoolmaster at Nowsary.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge with thanks your interesting paper on the subject of cotton cultivation, dated 28th April.

There can be no doubt that the germinative power of the American seed ceases about the usual time of sowing in America, viz. about the end of March or beginning of April.

It is to be hoped that you have re-sown this season the seed from the few bolls of American cotton you mention, as you will no doubt find, that the seed being now acclimatised, you will obtain much larger and more healthy plants than last year. The same remark will apply equally to the Egyptian.

It would seem, from recent experiments, that where the plan of *early sowing* is adopted, wide spaces between the plants are necessary, in order that the roots may extend in proportion to the size of the plants; and it would therefore be very desirable if you would reduce the number of your plants as follows, by pulling up the intermediate ones:—

Egyptian—one row every *six feet*, and the plants four feet apart.

American—one row every *four feet*, and the plants three feet apart.

As of course the object of these experiments is to develop a plan by which cotton might be cultivated on a large scale, it would be desirable not to make use of any artificial stimulants, such as guano, nitrate of soda, or even water; as the

extra expense entailed by their use would render the cultivation unprofitable.

About a fortnight after the plant is *in full flower*, it is desirable to top it to about four feet, and prune slightly any long straggling side branches. This should be done *roughly*, as it might be done in a large plantation.

When the first crop is over, and the plant is in the drooping and dried condition you mention, it has been found advantageous to prune the side branches *roughly* to about a foot or eighteen inches from the stalk of the plant, by which means it has been found that the second crop is generally larger than the first.

It appears not improbable, that if the system indicated above be adopted, you will find your annual produce exceed the average acreage of Native cotton.

The Committee trust that you have continued your experiment this year, and that your praiseworthy efforts will be rewarded by success.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 18th June 1861.

To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

DEAR SIR,—In your favour of the 27th March last, you informed me that the Chamber of Commerce was pleased to place one of the MacCarthy gins at my disposal, and desired me to send the person who will have charge of the machine to be present when it is put up and adjusted. In consequence of the then approaching monsoon, and other causes, I could not send any person at the time, but as Mr. Edington [from whom you will receive this letter] is shortly to come over here, and as he will have an opportunity of seeing how the gin works, I should feel much obliged if you would deliver over the gin to him, and give him such information as you may think necessary for the proper adjustment and working of the same.

I beg to assure you that I will not forget to report to the

Chamber the result of my experiment with the gin in question.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) RUNCHORELALL CHOTALALL.

Ahmedabad, 15th September 1860.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

DEAR SIR,—By the last mail steamer we received from the correspondent of the Cotton Supply Association at Cairo eleven large sacks of Egyptian cotton seed, and as you are doubtless acquainted with the parties to whom this seed can be distributed with most advantage, we will transfer the greater portion of the parcel to you if you will kindly undertake its allotment. Of course the object in forwarding this seed has been again to test its suitability for production in India; and, when delivering any portion, it appears desirable to solicit a report on the result of the experiment.—We remain, &c.,

(Signed) PEEL, CASSELS, & Co.

Bombay, 16th January 1861.

To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

DEAR SIR,—I send you enclosed a letter I received from Mr. Hales, the Station Master at Barsee Road, for whom I received from Mr. Cooper permission to cultivate some of the cotton seed I took up there last month.

I should feel obliged if you could furnish Mr. Hales with the information he wants regarding the management of the seed.

I do not know whether three acres are sufficient for an experiment: if not, I do not think it would be impolitic to assist Mr. Hales from the funds of the Cotton Supply Association in your hands, or in the way of implements, if such are in the possession of the Chamber.

Being a railway station, the carriage of them would be a trifle.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) W. C. SILLAR.

Bombay, 17th June 1861.

(Extracts.)

MY DEAR MR. SILLAR,—* * * I was very glad to hear you had seen Mr. Cooper, and as you tell me he has no objection to my cultivating a small bit of ground, I have succeeded in renting a field close to the station. It is not very large, as I have no funds to admit of my speculating—so that I have contented myself with about three acres; and I shall feel much obliged to you if you will kindly give me some instructions to go by in the cultivation of the cotton. The parties about here seem to say that it will never pay to cultivate it in this country, but without a trial there is no denial. I am also preparing all the spare ground belonging to the station, ready for planting some domestic vegetables, &c.; if you could possibly send me a few seeds of any kind, I shall be most thankful, as I find that they are not to be obtained at Sholapore. I would have rented a larger piece of ground for the cotton, but it is so very dear here, and difficult to get worked up, unless you have a stock of implements, bullocks, &c. of your own; for these Natives charge a European nearly twice as much as they would one of their own class, and a person starting, having to contend with all these difficulties, should be possessed of some capital.

(Signed) H. HALES.

Barsee Road, 14th June 1861.

No. 124 OF 1861.

To W. C. SILLAR, Esq.,

Bombay.

DEAR SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 17th inst., with an enclosure from Mr. Hales, Station Master at Barsee Road Station, on the subject of cotton cultivation.

As the American cotton seed handed to Mr. Hales is not unlikely to prove unfertile, the Chamber has despatched by railway a bag of Egyptian cotton seed, as well as some guano, and the instructions issued by the Cotton Supply Association for the cultivation of the American plant.

The Chamber has not thought it within the objects of the Association to engage either directly or indirectly in the cultivation of cotton; but if Mr. Hales should be moderately successful in the cultivation of his three acres, the Cotton Supply Association would not improbably afford him some assistance in extending his experiment.

The numerous trials by the American planters have pretty well demonstrated that the American system of ridge and furrow husbandry, with repeated ploughings, will not answer in India; and it would therefore be as well for Mr. Hales to try the opposite plan of retaining as much moisture in the ground as possible, by only keeping the rows as well weeded as may be required. In order to ascertain the best time for sowing, it would be desirable to divide his three acres into say ten or twelve patches, and to sow one patch every week. To find the proper width between the plants, he should sow a portion of his weekly patch of ground in rows at 2 feet apart, and others at 3, 4, 5, and 6 feet respectively,—making the distances between the plants in the rows as follows:—

Rows	2	feet apart,	plants	1	foot from each other.
Do.	3	do.	do.	1½	do.
Do.	4	do.	do.	2	do.
Do.	5	do.	do.	3	do.
Do.	6	do.	do.	4	do.

The guano might be tried upon a few plants only, as its expense would render its use impossible in a cotton plantation of any extent: Mr. Hales will probably find it more beneficial in the cultivation of vegetables. It should only be used in *moist* weather, so that it may be taken up by the roots before its virtues are exhausted by evaporation.

It would also be very desirable to keep a record of temperature and general appearance of the plants from week to week.

The Committee desire me to tender their best thanks to you for the trouble you have taken in this matter.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) H. Brooke,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 25th June 1861.

SUCCESS OF EGYPTIAN SEED.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

MY DEAR SIR,—I beg to state, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, that I have tried several experiments with the Egyptian cotton seed sent to me last year; and, upon the whole, I am perfectly satisfied that Egyptian cotton may be successfully raised *during the monsoon* upon *red* soil in the Padshapoor and Beedee Talookas of this Collectorate, and in many parts of Dharwar.

2. In Belgaum, I first planted four acres of red soil on the 14th July 1860, and a fortnight afterwards a small patch of black soil. In the beginning of August, some of the seed was put down in a third piece of black soil, in the village of Goojnal, about fourteen miles east of Belgaum, where the fall of rain is somewhat less; and the fourth planting was in a small piece of red soil near my garden, in which the seed was put down on the 10th August.

The seed put down in the first piece produced fine healthy plants, and on the twentieth day they were thinned, so that there was a space of about 14 inches between each. They continued growing rapidly, and about the end of September, on measurement, they were found to be on an average 46 inches high. All the plants were thoroughly weeded, and some of them topped about the end of August. They were after that allowed to grow without any further attention being bestowed upon them. The flower buds commenced to appear about the 15th of October, when the plants were on an average 54 inches high; and seven weeks afterwards, the bolls appeared to have attained their full size, being half as large again as those of the country cotton, and nearly twice the weight. The ripening process was far more protracted than I had been led to expect from your letter to my address of the 16th July 1860, No. 63. It was not until the end of December, when the plants were on an average 65 inches high, that the pods commenced to burst. On the 20th December, Mr. Seton Karr, the Collector of Belgaum, inspected a portion of the field, and although he pronounced the plants healthy, and of more than ordinary size, the delay in the full ripening of the pods was then supposed by him, as

well as myself, to be likely to operate prejudically to the cotton. The picking, however, which commenced in the second week of January, dissipated all fear on this head; the cotton turned out, both in fibre and texture, to be very superior; and the seed had not lost in size or hardness. The colour was not all that could be wished, and this may perhaps be owing to the nature of the soil, in which ferruginous matter is more or less present.

About 120 pounds of the first picking were forwarded to you on the 1st February; but owing to delays between this and Poona, the bale did not reach the Chamber until the beginning of March.

The following statistics will perhaps be interesting. Of the seven acres, I took one acre of the best lot of plants, and one of the worst. Red soil here is generally found resting on undulating slopes of the laterite formation, the lower end being generally more productive, owing to the accumulation of debris and greater moisture.

	Clean Cotton.	Kuppas.	Height of tallest plant.	Height of shortest plant.	Measurement round Stem near the ground.	Average length of tap root.
	lb.	lb.	Ft. in.	Ft. in.	In.	In.
1st Acre.	95	260	8 8	3 4	5	6
2nd Do.	64	198	5 7	2 11	3¾	

The whole of the ground was ploughed up Native fashion, and the usual country manure only was used.

Throughout the whole season, the bolls did not wither or drop off; and on some plants there were so many that that the branches had to be propped up.

Some loss was sustained by the ravages of the field rat.

A larger crop might have been raised by more careful weeding and ploughing.

As I was absent from Belgaum for upwards of a month during the picking season, I have no doubt there was a considerable amount of pilfering.

Having no gin, the cotton had to be distributed throughout the town of Belgaum to be cleaned.

Some of the cotton was worked up into towels in the Government School of Industry at Belgaum under my charge, and the superiority of texture, and colour, after repeated washings, over the towels manufactured out of country cotton, is remarkable.

The second and third experiments in black soil proved failures, and the small amount of cotton produced was inferior in every respect to that raised on red. Both these experiments were, however, entirely entrusted to Natives, who, I must say, were not over anxious to try them.

The fourth experiment of late planting in red soil turned out as I anticipated: although the plants came up healthy enough, and bore a fair crop, they did not attain more than an average height of two and a half feet. I therefore did not trouble myself with noting down any details.

The following is a register of the fall of rain at Belgaum during the year 1860, contrasted with that of previous years:—

Date.	1860. Rain.		Month and Year.	Total Monthly Fall during previous years.		
	Ins.	Cts.		Years.	Ins.	Cts.
1..	..	38	*June*, 1860.			
2..	..	66				
3..	..	48				
4..	..	43				
5..	..	11				
7..	..	35				
8..	..	70				
9..	..	60				
10..	..	50		1855..	8	17
11..	..	7		1856..	12	4
12..	..	4		1857..	11	59
13..	..	17		1858..	3	25
19..	..	55		1859..	3	13
21..	..	45				
30..	..	11			38	18
Total..	5	60	Average of five years.....		7	63

Date.	1860. Rain.		Month and Year.	Total Monthly Fall during previous years.		
	Ins.	Cts.		Years.	Ins.	Cts.
1..	..	38				
2..	..	66	*July*, 1860.			
3..	..	48				
4..	..	43				
5..	..	39				
6..	..	11				
7..	..	38				
8..	..	39				
9..	..	6				
10..	..	22				
11..	..	3				
14..	..	28				
15..	..	11				
16..	..	32				
17..	..	4				
18..	..	6				
19..	..	19				
20..	..	22				
21..	..	10				
22..	..	20				
23..	..	20				
24..	..	14				
25..	..	30		1855..	12	29
26..	..	52		1856..	10	99
27..	..	40		1857..	5	84
28..	..	40		1858..	12	83
29..	..	75		1859..	21	49
30..	..	40				
31..	..	60			63	44
Total..	8	76	Average of five years.....		12	69
1..	..	27				
2..	..	90	*August*, 1860.			
3..	..	55				
4..	..	95				
5..	..	24				
6..	..	4				

Date.	1860. Rain.		Month and Year.	Total Monthly Eall during previous years.		
	Ins.	Cts.		Years.	Ins.	Cts.
7..	..	80	*August*, 1860.			
8..	..	66				
9..	..	34				
10..	..	17				
11..	..	17				
12..	..	13				
13..	..	17				
14..	..	35				
15..	..	18				
16..	..	5		1855..	2	52
17..	..	8		1856..	6	2½
26..	..	12		1857..	15	72
27..	..	20		1858..	3	77
28..	..	5		1859..	5	46
30..	..	19				
31..	..	54			33	49
Total..	7	15	Average of five years		6	69
1..	..	5	*September*, 1860.			
2..	..	2				
3..	..	12				
4..	..	1				
5..	..	11				
6..	..	8				
7..	..	25		1855..	5	27
8..	..	15		1856..	3	19
13..	..	13		1857..	..	95
14..	..	11		1858..	2	36*
15..	..	2		1859..	5	95
26..	..	18				
27..	..	27			17	72
Total..	1	50	Average of five years		3	54

* Comet 28th.

Date.	1860. Rain.		Month and Year.	Total Monthly Fall during previous years.		
	Ins.	Cts.		Years.	Ins.	Cts.
1..	..	45				
7..	..	5	*October*, 1860.	1855..	6	73
8..	..	20		1856..	6	13
18..	..	45		1857..	6	20
19..	..	12		1858..	8	76
20..	2	50		1859..	2	96
24..	..	47				
26..	..	14			30	78
Total.	4	38	Average of five years.....		6	15
			November, 1860—*no rain.*	1855..	..	11
				1856..	..	..
				1857..	2	93*
				1858..	2	10†
				1859..	1	80‡
					6	94
			Average of five years.....		1	38

Abstract.

	Inches.	Cents.
Total fall for 1860.....	27	39
Average fall of the five previous years	38	8

It will be seen that the fall of rain during the year was startlingly small; and it was owing to the small quantity which fell in June that the ground could not be properly prepared to receive the seed earlier. Ploughing operations cannot go on in red soil without a good soaking, so that early planting will generally depend upon a seasonable shower at the latter end of May or beginning of June.

If the preceding are the results of a year of unusual

* On 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th. † On 24th and 25th.
‡ On 10th, 20th, and 23rd.

dryness, what may be expected of an average season? Nearly all the country cotton crops in the adjoining districts of Chikodee and Kagwar were lost last year, owing to the unusual drought.

This year, about the middle of June, I received five bags of Egyptian seed, I think, from Messrs. Wm. Nicol & Co. Some of it has been put down in red soil at Belgaum, and the rest has been distributed in various parts of the Collectorate. Some of the Jagheerdars, to whom I had shown the produce of the little piece of ground cultivated at Belgaum, offered to try the experiment themselves, so I supplied them with one-half of the seed, a great portion of which I am informed was put down before the third week in July. The Jagheerdars should, properly speaking, be the pioneers of any undertaking of this kind; and I am glad that in this instance they have come forward so willingly. I hold no official position in connection with them; and in this matter they have acted spontaneously. If success should attend their endeavours, I have no doubt the cultivation will be looked upon with favour by the ryots. From the many varieties of soil in which the seed has been planted this year, and the difference in the climate of the several districts, there will be ample opportunities of arriving at some definite conclusions as to the particular tracts to which the cultivation might be extended, and as to whether in others it might not with advantage supersede that of every other kind of cotton.

As far as my own experience goes, I believe that nearly the whole of the uplands of that tract of country lying between the Ghauts and thirty miles east of them is capable of producing good cotton; and in corroboration of this, George Richardson Porter, in his excellent work, "The Tropical Agriculturist," says—"Cotton may be cultivated on soils of such very moderate fertility that it would often be difficult to procure from them any other kind of harvest."

The fall of rain this year has been excessive—already it is more than double the quantity registered last year; so if the results of the planting this season turn out at all fair, those who follow will have the benefit of the experience gained during one year of drought, and one of excessive rain.

I would beg to suggest that one of Dr. Forbes's new

cotton gins should be sent to Belgaum, as last year's cleaning involved a large outlay for so small an experiment.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) W. M. HEARN.

Belgaum, 21*st August* 1861.

COTTON SUPPLY ASSOCIATION.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to inform you that one ton of the best Egyptian cotton seed has been ordered to be shipped at Suez by W. B. Webster, Esq., to our Honorary Agents, Messrs. Peel, Cassels, & Co., Bombay, and I have just received the intelligence that the shipment is about to be effected per the P. & O. S. N. Company.

The Committee of this Association will be glad to learn if your Chamber can usefully distribute a portion of this seed.

I shall be glad to hear from you on the arrival of the seed, and am, &c.,

(Signed) G. R. HAYWOOD, Secretary.
By G. W. NAYLOR.

Manchester, 1*st December* 1860.

No. 112 OF 1861.

To G. R. HAYWOOD, Esq.,
Secretary to the Cotton Supply Association,
Manchester.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to hand you enclosed copy of a letter received from the Commissioner in Sind, reporting on the result of the cotton experiments in that province. The failures you will observe are attributed to the late arrival of the seed. It appears to the Committee, that as the picking of the American crop begins in August, the seed might be shipped in Sep-

tember by steamer from New York, and if the overland route were availed of, it would arrive in Bombay in November. The Committee would recommend this course to be adopted with the supply destined for Sind. Ten to twenty barrels would be quite sufficient. Instructions might likewise be sent to Egypt to send the supply off in October, if the period of the crop will admit of it.

The Committee have not yet received any report of the least interest respecting the results of last year's experiments, but it is perhaps yet early to expect them.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 12th June 1861.

No. 134 OF 1861.

To G. R. HAYWOOD, Esq.,
Secretary to the Cotton Supply Association,
Manchester.

SIR,—Referring to the last letter of the Chamber, dated 12th June, I am now directed by the Committee to inform you, that owing to the lateness of the season, and the inability of Government to spare an Engineer Officer to accompany Mr. Sillar on his tour through the southern cotton districts, but little information of practical value has been elicited.

The absence of even the lowest class of roads is the most marked feature of the district to the eastward of the Barsee Road Station of the G. I. P. Railway Co., a district peculiarly adapted to the cultivation of cotton, and which might furnish a very large supply were means of communication established.

Another drawback is the levy by the Nizam of transit duties across a narrow slip of land which separates a considerable tract of British territory from the railway.

On these subjects, the Committee have sent in a representation to Government, and have suggested that a tour through the cotton districts in December or January next, when the crop is about maturing, would doubtless be the means of affording much useful information to the mercantile classes,

as well as considerably stimulating the increased cultivation of cotton, by affording information to the better class of the Natives, and removing the obstacles that at present impede trade in those districts.

Upon the subject of the existing high rates of duties on piece goods imported to India, the Chamber has made a strong representation to Government, pointing out the desirability of their reduction.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 11th July 1861.

COTTON-CLEANING MACHINERY.

To ANDREW GRANT, Esq.,
Chairman Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—We beg to hand you a letter to the address of your predecessor in office, and should your Committee desire it, we shall be happy to permit the machine being put up for a time in the Chamber of Commerce, for the inspection of any interested.—We are, &c.,

(Signed) WM. NICOL & Co.

Bombay, 10th December 1860.

To HENRY SCOTT, Esq.,
President of the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—Your Chamber having recently discussed matters affecting cotton cultivation, will be interested to learn that a new machine, called "Forbes's Patent Churka"—one hundred of which we are preparing for Messrs. Wm. Nicol & Co., of your city,—is likely, when introduced, to impart a great impetus to the production of that staple in India.

Compared with "Dunlop's," or any other machine extant, it performs its work with at least three times the rapidity, and discharges the staple *uninjured in fibre*, and in a much purer state. It is in the form of a lathe, to be worked by a boy or girl, and can be worked for a whole day without

fatigue. It can also be adapted to steam power, and an engine of three horse-power could drive one hundred with ease. Its employment, Mr. Bayley, M.P. for Manchester, states will enhance the value of Indian cotton at least two-pence per pound. Mr. John Fleming, of the firm above mentioned, having been here, seen it at work, and appreciated its great value to India, ordered the number already named, to expedite its introduction.

The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company has liberally agreed to take the first machine to Bombay free, we having petitioned the Directors for that purpose.

It goes by the same steamer that bears this mail, and on its arrival we have little doubt Messrs. Wm. Nicol & Co. will only be too happy to allow any one interested to inspect it.—We remain, &c.,

(Signed) RUSSELL & VEITCH.

Birmingham, 2nd November 1860.

No. 140 OF 1860.

To Messrs. WM. NICOL & Co.

GENTLEMEN,—I am desired by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge receipt of your favour of 10th December, handing letter from the manufacturers of Forbes's patent churka, and to inform you in reply that they will be glad to allow the churka a place in the Chamber's meeting-room, where it can be inspected by those interested.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) ANDREW GRANT,
Chairman.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 14th December 1860.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

DEAR SIR,—We have recently received from the Manchester Cotton Supply Association a few of Wanklyn's cotton-cleaning gins, which we have already opened for inspection in our own office, and we shall be obliged by your allowing

us to send two or three to the Chamber's premises, where they will be exposed to more general view. This request is made at the suggestion of the Association.

We are instructed to sell these gins, if possible; but if purchasers are not to be found, they are to be distributed amongst the largest cotton dealers and growers. The average cost of each is about £2 4*s.*

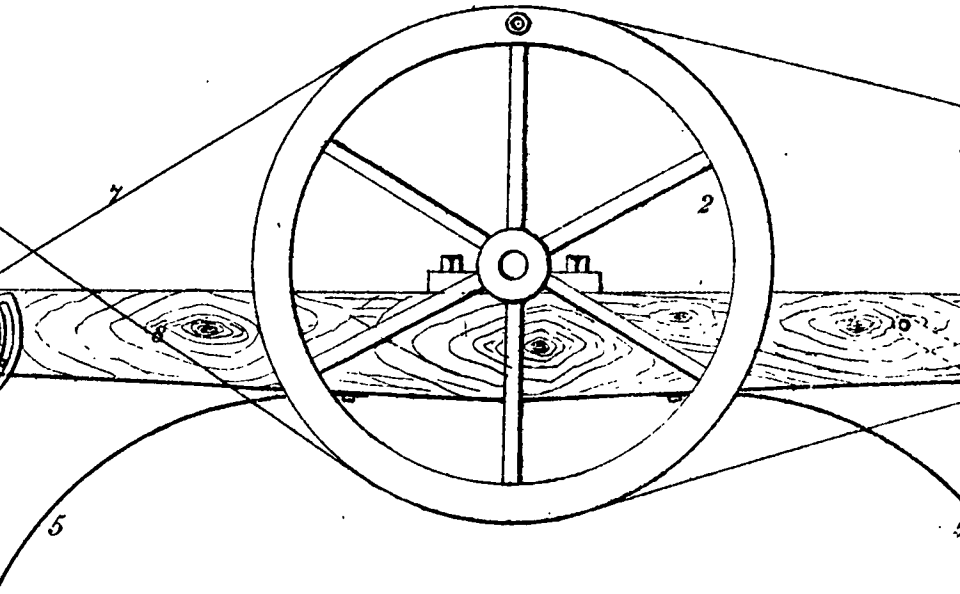
By the *Forganhall* we expect some improved iron ploughs, a sample of which we shall also ask you to be good enough to receive at the Chamber.—We remain, &c.,

(Signed) PEEL, CASSELS, & Co.

Bombay, 2nd January 1861.

I. MASON'S

ATLY IMPROVED DOUBLE COTTON CH



OUBLE COTTON CHURKA.

ackening the Ropes; 2, Two Fly-Wheels self-adjusting Bearing Brasses to them; Rollers; 5, Round Iron Stays; 6, Plate nd 8 shows the Rope crossed; it must be works much better this way: the Pulley oves in it, which keeps the Rope from the outside view of the Rope.

DIRECTIONS.

too much Cotton getting between them, but simply to give the small Fly-Wheel a smart pull round with the hand, or extracted; this can easily be done with ductive of much advantage, and great not too tightly screwed down, the Ma clean the Cotton quite as well. If amount of work.

My Single Cotton Churka is on it is turned and fed by one person.

APPENDIX B.

TEA CULTIVATION.

To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—With reference to the cotton seed supplied to me by the Chamber for trial on the Neilgherries, I beg to inform you that both this, and some which I imported from Ceylon (thus making *New Orleans* and *Sea Island* cotton), have thrived and produced well here *at an elevation of* 5,000 *feet above the sea*, on a piece of grass land, and also equally well on forest soil, at a place called Kulhutty, on these hills. On my return to Bombay, in the coming September, I shall bring with me and submit to the Chamber as much of the cotton of both kinds as I can gather.

As to the climate in which the above have thriven, I may mention, that beside them are produced English vegetables of all kinds, in greater perfection there than here at Ootacamund (7,800 feet), as also *holcus sorghum*. Kulhutty is, in fact, at the highest range of the coffee plant, which delights most in a sub-tropical climate. The aspect of the place is nearly north-east, facing Mysore; but this unfavourable aspect is compensated by the proximity of the Koordah mountains, which make Kulhutty much more humid than the rain-fall there (about 60 inches) would indicate. The rain fall at the Koordahs is the same as at Mahableshwur, viz. 250 inches. Both the above varieties of cotton were produced without irrigation. I tried irrigation on one plant of each, and found that, to both alike, it imparted a fleshiness

to the capsule which, for the most part, prevented the pods bursting ere the setting in of the monsoon. The soil is a decomposed *gneiss*, chiefly *syenite*, and is highly ferruginous; in fact, it is rich and porous, which latter quality renders it objectionable to irrigate, unless the wastage from the free drainage of its texture can be abundantly met, and be more than compensated, by manuring.

The seed in question, which your predecessor, Mr. Fleming, sent me, was pronounced, as the Chamber may remember, to be bad in all parts of the Presidency. Only a few germinated here. They were at first a good deal neglected, but I have now had them in hand for the last eighteen months, and have subjected some to varieties of culture, of which I shall submit separate samples to the Chamber, that the effect of each process on the height of the staple may be determined; but the less in this of difference that is found, the more hopeful will it become for future colonists to raise a good cotton in our hill districts cheaply. I should add, that the wool of both varieties does here adhere well to the pod—a matter of some importance, as it allows the flock to be picked ere it falls and becomes fouled on the ground.

To proceed now to another matter. As I am in a position to introduce the *tea* plant into Bombay, and am of opinion that it would thrive well in various parts of the Presidency, but am unable, from the nature of the office I hold, to myself look after the project, which, I fancy, would be best secured by handing over a number of plants to any person or persons who would like to give one or two of them a trial in likely spots, I beg to propose that I bring with me, and present to the Chamber, a Ward's case, containing as many plants and seeds, in a germinating state, from a small estate of mine, as I can spare and bring with me, with a paper of instructions regarding soil, site, treatment, &c. I would hand over the case cost free, and then wash my hands of the matter. Will the Chamber accept this offer; for more, being a Government servant, I am sorry I cannot do?

My object in writing now on this matter is, that (an early formed intention being a matter of some moment in transporting plants of a temperate type through a tropical climate) I should like to have an early answer, if possible, from the Chamber, that the plants may have full time to *establish* themselves in the Ward's case previous to transit, in place

of being required *to recover transplanting during the ordeal of transit*, which was Mr. Markham's error, and the cause of the death of all the cinchona plants he lately tried to introduce here.

I will chiefly bring Chinese tea plants; but, if the Chamber desire it, will be happy to include some of the indigenous Assam variety, which is much inferior.

The Chinese convicts at Mahableshwur would, I have little doubt, highly appreciate, and turn to good account, their native plant. The Assam, if not also the China plant, would, I think, thrive well at Khandalla, and throughout the Deccan, where coffee will and *does* grow—for instance at Belgaum, &c.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) H. D. RAE.

Ootacamund, 18th February 1861.

P. S.—I have found the pamphlet on cotton planting, kindly presented to me by the Bombay Chamber, to be of greater value at the elevation tried than I anticipated, as per my last letter to you.—H. D. R.

No. 44 OF 1861.

To H. D. RAE, Esq.,
Ootacamund.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 18th ultimo, and to thank you for the interesting remarks on the suitableness of your soil and climate for the growth of cotton, as well as for your report on the plants obtained from the seed furnished by the Chamber. The Committee will be very glad to receive the samples which you propose bringing in September.

Regarding your obliging offer to bring also with you a case of tea plants, I am desired to say that the Committee will be happy to undertake the distribution of any you may be able to place at their disposal. They anticipate no difficulty in having them carefully tried at Matheran and other hilly districts; and as the plants might in many cases be entrusted to Chinese convicts who are employed as gardeners,

there is reason to hope that they would have a fair trial.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 6th March 1861.

To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—I have the pleasure to transmit to you to-day a sample, both green and black, of *Neilgherry Tea*, manufactured by my "prentice fingers."

I beg you will kindly place this before your Committee, with a request that it be reported on.

Your Vice-President, as well probably as others of your number, is aware that the tea plant has long been introduced into this part of the world. Lord Elphinstone was the first to here establish a tea farm, and all these plants, and numbers of others, have passed into my hands; but the Madras Presidency, in common with Ceylon, laboured, in the matter of tea, under the disadvantage of possessing no skilled Chinese manipulators to test the quality of the leaf. Under these circumstances, being deeply interested in the result, I have done my best to collate information regarding the manufacture required, and the result of my endeavours has been thought so promising by a large circle of friends here, that, at the request of a Member of the Madras Chamber, I have submitted a sample to the Madras Government through the Board of Revenue, who are to place it before the Madras Chamber; and I beg now also to seek for the opinion of the Bombay Chamber—while I trust it will be borne in mind that I am not a professed tea manufacturer, far less a Chinaman! As the prepared leaf now transmitted gives an exceedingly strong brew, it is requested that in trying it the *boiling* water be not allowed to stand on the leaf in the tea-pot for more than 5 or 6 minutes, otherwise the strength of the decoction will render it undrinkable. We calculate here that it is four times stronger than the best China tea, and that in its present state its chief excellence in a merchantable point of view, *like that of the Himalayan teas*, would lie in its being mixed with the inferior China teas, to improve

their quality. These opinions, if they can be confirmed, as also what is supposed by the Chamber to be the value of this article per pound in the Bombay market, would tend much to confirm our views, and afford, as I hope, considerable encouragement to the extension of tea cultivation throughout the Western Ghauts.

The tea plants I have promised the Chamber are already safely established in the *Ward's case*, I shall also be able to include some cinchonæ, oaks, &c.; as also bring with me the American cotton I have grown on these hills.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) H. D. RAE,
Guzerat Revenue Survey.

Octacamund, 6th May 1861.

P. S.—As I have been opening out a tea estate, if the accompanying is thought worth it, and you apply to me, I shall be happy to furnish some particulars regarding cost per acre, outturn, &c. At the least, I hope it will be thought, that if the accompanying can be turned out by amateur fingers, it gives a fair and reliable promise that a somewhat superior article would most probably be the product of the Western Ghauts in proficient hands.—H. D. R.

No. 117 OF 1861.

To H. D. RAE, Esq.,
Ootacamund.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 6th May, accompanying two samples of tea, for report and valuation.

It is difficult to assess the value of teas of this description, as their appearance is so unlike the produce of China; but it is probable that a sale would be found here for the purpose of mixing, as you suggest.

The *Green tea* appears to the Committee to be best cured, and superior in quality to the *Black*, as, although the infusion possesses little aroma, the flower is good, and the strength, as you point out, great. Its nominal value might be estimated at ten annas per pound.

The *Black tea* appears to present a great contrast to the *Green*, as the infusion, which possesses a good aroma, seems to the Committee not to have the taste of tea, but a crude flavour of dried leaves. Its nominal value might be seven or eight annas per pound.

If the two samples were mixed together, a drinkable tea would doubtless result; but it would be perhaps questionable whether the black tea would be a very wholesome beverage.

The Chamber will be very glad to receive particulars of cost of cultivation per acre, outturn, &c. as the samples certainly give promise of ultimate success.

The small sample of Sea Island cotton contains some good staple, but it is much mixed with short fibres, and is much inferior to the sample enclosed, which was grown at Hooblee, in Dharwar, and was valued in Liverpool at 1*s.* 4*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per pound.

The American sample appears to have been thrown away, under the impression that it was merely placed in the parcel of tea to fill up the vacant space.

The reply to your letter has been delayed, in consequence of the illness of the writer, who wished to reply at the same time to your private note of 17th April, on the subject of Sea Island cotton, &c.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 20th June 1861.

APPENDIX C.

FLAX CULTIVATION.

To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—The attention of some of the Directors of this Company has been called to the following extract from the last Annual Report of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce:—

"*Flax Cultivation.*—Your Committee have been in communication with the Leeds Chamber of Commerce, on this subject, but until Europeans acquainted with the proper preparation of the article undertake the cultivation, there appears no prospect of anything being done to add this important commodity to our staples."

For the information of your Chamber, I have been instructed to place in your hands a copy of the prospectus of this Company, which I forward by this post. I have further to acquaint you that the Company have commenced operations. An agriculturist has been appointed, Mr. James Wightman, of whose arrival at Kurrachee the Directors have received advice. Mr. Wightman is most intimately and fully acquainted with the cultivation of flax in all its details, and has spent his life hitherto in the culture of that plant, not merely in this country, but in several other countries to which he had been sent for the sole purpose of extending its cultivation. The Directors desire to solicit your co-operation in their most important undertaking, and that you will be pleased to give due publicity to the existence of the Company, and to the important object which the Company

desire to accomplish. I hand Mr. Wightman's address, with whom, if you desire, you can directly communicate.

I have merely further to add, that the Board of Directors is composed of gentlemen largely and extensively engaged in the various departments of the linen trade, and who, consequently, are well and intimately acquainted with all needful knowledge for the successful prosecution of the important undertaking which this Company propose to accomplish.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) W. McIlwrath.

Belfast, 1st November 1860.

Prospectus of the Indian Flax Company (Limited).

Capital, £50,000, in 5,000 Shares of £10 each.

Chairman pro tem., Jonathan Richardson, Esq., M.P., Lambeg, Lisburn; *Vice-Chairman, pro tem.*, John Hind, Esq., Dunowen, Belfast; *Provisional Committee* (with power to add to their number)—William Ewart, jun., Esq., Mayor of Belfast, John Herdman, Esq., The Lodge House, Belfast, William Charley, Esq., J.P., Seymour Hill, Dunmurry, Elias H. Thompson, Esq., Whiteabbey, Belfast, Finlay M'Cance, Esq., Belfast, William Richardson, Esq., Brooklands, Belfast, William S. Mitchell, Esq., Belfast, John Preston, Esq., Dunmore, Belfast, Charles Finlay, Esq., Belfast, I. Julius Weinberg, Esq., Belfast, Samuel Murland, Esq., J.P., Woodlawn, Castlewellan, John W. M'Master, Esq., J.P., Dunbarton House, Gilford, Co. Down, James Dewar, Esq., London, D. Jaffé, Esq., Holywood and Belfast, Jonathan J. Richardson, Esq., J.P., Island, Lisburn, and Edward C. M'Master, Esq., Drogheda; *Treasurer*, James Bristow, Esq., Belfast; *Banhers*, the Northern Banking Company; *Solicitors*, Messrs. Cassidy & Bruce, 17, Donegall Place, Belfast; *Secretary, pro tem.*, W. M'Ilwrath, 5, Skipper Street, Belfast.

The linen trade, at its seats of action in Leeds, Dundee, and Belfast, and their manufacturing dependencies, has for some time past been suffering severely from the extreme scarcity of flax; and the inquiries instituted with the view

of opening up extended sources of supply, have forced on the minds of manufacturers that it is vain to expect, from present sources, the quantity of fibre necessary to meet the growing requirements of the trade.

It is now well ascertained, that several varieties of flax which are required in the linen manufactures of the United Kingdom can be successfully produced in the East Indies—particularly in the Upper and Punjab portions of the British possessions; and the object of the proposed Company is to encourage mainly the growth of flax, and the preparation of the fibre in those districts of India best adapted to the production of that plant; also to give the requisite attention to other fibrous substances suitable for the use of flax-spinners.

The amazing success of cotton manufacture serves to show, that the increased prosperity of the linen trade, which the promoters anticipate to result from the reduced price of the raw commodity, is not problematic. With cheap and abundant material, new life would be infused into the factories, and thousands of spindles now rusting in inaction would be set in motion; full and profitable employment would be provided for the numerous power-looms introduced since 1853; linen, from its decreased cost, would become an article of more general use in every climate; and the general trade of the country would be largely increased.

The proposed Company, as a means of making provision for those necessary supplies, ought, therefore, to be supported by every one interested in this great department of enterprise. Indeed, it would be a subject of national reproach, were the most ancient branch of textile industry permitted to languish and expire for want of material, while a remedy lies within reach.

That a large supply of Flax can be procured from our East Indian possessions is a fact about which there can be no longer any question.

The inquiries instituted by the late Parliamentary Committee on the colonisation of India clearly proved that the supply of flax can be had from that country, at remunerative prices, assuming the value to be reduced considerably below the present current rates. Among other striking facts brought out by that Committee, it was proved that the breadth of flax cultivated in the Punjab had been extended from 60,000 acres in 1853 to 250,000 acres in 1855, though

the influence of the Government was exercised in a very moderate degree; but, from want of knowledge in the art of manipulating the straw, so as to render the fibre marketable, nearly all was lost, and the seed only saved.

Sir John Lawrence, the late Governor of the Punjab, has given the most favourable report of the adaptation of the soil there for the growth of flax; of the industrious, peaceable, and well-disposed habits of the Natives, and the willingness of the Government to facilitate the great object of this Company.

Merchants of the highest eminence in the linen trade have pronounced the specimens of India-grown flax submitted to them as admirably calculated to meet the wants of flax-spinners, and a good marketable article has been spun in Belfast from the fibre.

India contains immense tracts of rich alluvial deposit lying neglected, and only requiring that labour, which can be had in almost unlimited quantity, and at merely nominal rates, to render them fit for the growth of fibrous plants. The efforts now in progress, to extend to those districts the benefits of commercial intercourse, cannot fail to give an impetus to agriculture and the reclaiming of waste lands. The Scinde and Punjab Railway, and the increased facilities of transit now being established on the great rivers which lead from the interior to the sea-board, will, in a few years, create ample openings for inland trade. The progress of tank-cutting also, as providing for the general application of irrigation, promises the most valuable results.

In a letter recently addressed to Viscount Duncan, on the subject of a Flax Association, Sir John Lawrence has directed attention to the points to which the promoters of the undertaking should primarily address themselves—viz., 1st, the instruction of the Natives in the best modes of cultivating and preparing the fibre for the European market; and 2nd, the securing to the growers the purchase of the crops they shall raise at a remunerative price. Accordingly, the leading principle of the Company will be to give a proper direction to native industry, and secure to that industry a suitable return. By these means, the promoters anticipate that flax will rapidly become a favourite crop with the Native agriculturists, and the ulterior operations of the Company will be secured on an extended basis.

It is not proposed, therefore, that the Company shall become growers of flax. Their first step will be to procure the services of a person to go out to India, who, from his practical acquaintance with the cultivation and manipulation of flax, will be fully qualified to instruct the Natives; and along with him—as assistants—practical workmen. Secondly, to send out seed of the best description, and supply instructions for sowing, and other necessary details. Thirdly, to make advances to the holders of suitable land on the security of their land or crops. And lastly, to purchase, at a fair but moderate price, all suitable flax or other fibre, to be shipped to the Company for sale in this country.

The promoters feel the utmost confidence in the success of the proposed undertaking as a commercial enterprise. Flax, in the present imperfect state of agriculture in Upper India, can be raised to sell at £25 per ton; and under a more efficient course of management, the article could be produced at still lower figures. The flax grown in the Punjab, and submitted, in autumn last, to the members of the Belfast Chamber of Commerce, was considered by the spinners of that district to be a fair article, at the value of £45 a ton. That quality of flax, as stated by Colonel Burnett, could be raised and delivered in Belfast under £30 per ton, and granting that the markets for flax should come back to the rates current in 1848, the Indian production would still sell at a large profit.

The capital has been fixed at £50,000, to be raised in 5,000 shares of £10 each.

A deposit of one pound per share to be made on allotment. Three months' notice to be given of each call, which is not to exceed one pound per share at one time—no call to be made within three months of preceding call.

The shareholders will only be responsible to the amount of their respective shares.

BELFAST, *December 23rd*, 1859.

Applications for Shares must be made in the annexed form:—

To the Provisional Committee of the Indian Flax Company (Limited).

GENTLEMEN,—I hereby undertake to accept such number, not exceeding

133531

Shares in the proposed INDIAN FLAX COMPANY, as may be allotted to me, and I engage to pay the deposit and calls, and to conform to such regulations as may be required to promote the undertaking.

As witness my hand, this day of 18

Name .....

Residence .....

Occupation .....

APPENDIX D.

IMPERIAL TRADE RETURNS.

No. 761 of 1861.

From E. L. Jenkins, Esq.,
Acting Commissioner of Customs,
To H. Brooke, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

Sir,—In forwarding the accompanying copies of correspondence on the subject noted in the margin, I have the honor to request that you will have the goodness to favor me with the opinion of the Chamber as to whether it would be desirable, when the Monthly Returns are prepared and are ready for transmission to Calcutta, to cause them to be printed and published in Bombay; and whether, in the event of the Returns being published, the Chamber would subscribe for any, and if so, how many, copies of the same.

Prepayment of monthly Trade and Navigation Returns.

2. I beg also to be informed whether there is likely to be a sufficient sale, among the mercantile community, of the publications in question, so that the proceeds might cover the charges of printing, &c.

3. I shall feel obliged by your favoring me with an early expression of the opinion of the Chamber.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) E. L. Jenkins,
Acting Commissioner of Customs.

Bombay Custom House, 8th June 1861.

No. 924.

HOME DEPARTMENT,
Statistical.

From W. GREY, Esq.,
Secretary to the Government of India,

To the SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, Bombay.

SIR,—I am directed to transmit the accompanying copy of a report, dated the 18th January last, by the Customs Committee, on the subject of the preparation of Trade and Navigation Returns at Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay.

2. The forms of returns (founded on the English Returns) prescribed by the Committee accompany the report, together with a copy of the memorandum by the Honorable A. Eden, referred to in paragraph 36, and of the summary referred to in paragraph 5.

3. The Governor General in Council is desirous that the new forms of returns should be adopted at the three Presidency ports, so far as they can be at once introduced, from the 1st of the current month.

4. With regard to the Committee's recommendation (paragraphs 27 to 29) that the returns should include the computed real value of imports and exports, as well as the tariff and declared values, I am directed to inquire how the Government of Bombay would propose to organise an establishment for this purpose, and what expense will be necessary for the object. I am to add that, if the means of carrying out the suggestion without extra expense, and with tolerable accuracy, are already available, it will be very desirable to commence at once, from the 1st of May, filling in the real values.

5. It will be seen from the 23rd paragraph of the Committee's report, that, in addition to the monthly returns to be prepared at Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, the compilation at Calcutta of a general return, to be issued quarterly, "showing at a glance the whole trade of the three Presidencies," is contemplated. The Governor General in Council is disposed to think that the preparation of this general return may most conveniently be assigned to the same establishment which, in the Calcutta Custom House, will be charged with the preparation of the monthly returns

for Calcutta; but on this point a further communication will be made hereafter.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) W. GREY,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Fort William, the 3rd May 1861.

No. 2377 OF 1861.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Forwarded, for an early report, to the Officiating Commissioner of Customs, and for adoption, from the 1st instant, of the proposed system, as far as practicable.

(Signed) M. J. SHAW STEWART,
Under-Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 18th May 1861.

(True copies)

(Signed) E. L. JENKINS,
Acting Commissioner of Customs.

No. 128 OF 1861.

To E. L. JENKINS, Esq.,
Acting Commissioner of Customs, Bombay.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 761 of 1861, dated 8th ultimo, on the subject of the proposed Monthly Trade Returns ordered to be prepared for each Presidency.

The Committee presume that the form (No. 1, Imports) submitted as a sample is not intended to show the nature of the returns as ultimately prepared, but that they will contain, as in the British Board of Trade Returns, an account of the different classes of goods, under the general headings set forth in the sample form. Thus, the item "Piece Goods,

Grey," would be of little or no value to the merchant, unless divided, as in the present Trade Returns of Bombay, and other articles specified in a similar detailed manner, viz. Domestics, Jacconets, Longcloths, Maddapolams, Printers, Shirtings, T Cloths, Twills, and Drills.

As there are several publications giving the weekly and monthly imports and exports, the new tables would be chiefly of value as furnishing checks upon the existing compilations, and therefore the charge to the public should be limited as nearly as may be to the mere cost of printing and paper; that of preparation falling of course upon the Government. Upon such terms, it is probable that the demand by the mercantile classes would, in the beginning, amount to a hundred copies, and would steadily increase as the returns become more elaborate, and consequently of increased utility as a means of general reference.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 4th July 1861.

No. 964 OF 1861.

From E. L. JENKINS, Esq.,
Acting Commissioner of Customs,

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward herewith a statement embodying the principal articles of import and export at this port, and to request that the Chamber will have the goodness to oblige me by filling into it the average market value of the said articles during the several months specified therein, and returning it at their earliest convenience.

2. The above information is required to be embodied in the Monthly Trade Returns called for by the Government of India, the correspondence relative to which was forwarded to you with my letter No. 761, dated the 8th June last.

3. I shall further feel obliged by your informing me whether the Chamber would kindly undertake to furnish

similar information in future for every month, as this department has no other means of obtaining it.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) E. L. JENKINS,
Acting Commissioner of Customs.

Bombay Custom House, 6th August 1861.

No. 159 OF 1861.

To E. L. JENKINS, Esq.,
Acting Commissioner of Customs, Bombay.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 964 of 1861, dated 6th August, requesting them to fill into the list of imports forwarded, the average market value of the articles contained therein.

Upon examination, it appears to the Committee quite impossible to arrive at the average prices of the articles as classified, as the range of values is so great, and the relative importation of the low and high priced qualities so variable. Thus, for instance, the market value of the different descriptions of goods classed under No. 14, as "Cotton Piece Goods, Bleached," will range from Rs. 1 to Rs. 15 per piece, and of No. 46, "Cotton Piece Goods, Printed," from Rs. 1 to Rs. 8. Again, there are the vague classifications of "Cutlery" and "Hardware," which, it is obvious, must be quite unsusceptible of valuation.

The Committee would therefore suggest, that the only mode in which a tolerably accurate estimate of the value of import articles could be attained, would be to adopt the practice of having the value of each entry stated by the importer, whether the articles may be subject to specified or *ad valorem* duties.

In the Trade Returns of Great Britain, the "real value" is given, but the Committee are not aware in what manner it is arrived at. It would, however, probably be the best course to adopt the system pursued by the Board of Trade at home, as there do not appear to be any complaints of inaccuracy.

The Chamber will at all times be glad to afford you every information in their power, but in the present instance it appears impossible to arrive at any approximation to accuracy.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 21st August 1861.

APPENDIX E.

OVERLAND MAIL SERVICE.

No. 1857.

HOME DEPARTMENT,
Post Office.

From W. GREY, Esq.,
Secretary to the Government of India,

To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—With reference to the accompanying copy of a letter from the Director General of the Post Office, No. 2668, dated the 24th April last, I am directed by the Governor General in Council to request that the Chamber of Commerce will be so good as to communicate to that Officer any suggestions for the improvement of the Overland Mail Service which it may appear to the Chamber desirable to adopt.

2. The Governor General in Council, I am to add, has transmitted a copy of Mr. Riddell's letter to Her Majesty's Government, with a general recommendation that steps should be taken to provide, as soon as possible, for four mails in the month to Bombay, in order that the whole of India may benefit by the more frequent communication.

3. Mr. Riddell will be desired to report further to Government, after being made acquainted with the views of the Chambers at the three Presidencies.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) W. GREY,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Fort William, the 3rd September 1860.

From H. B. RIDDELL, *Esq., Director-General of the Post Office of India, to* W. GREY, *Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, No.* 2668, *dated the* 24*th April* 1860.

As the mail contract with the Peninsular and Oriental Company for the conveyance of the mails between Great Britain and India will expire next year, I desire to draw the attention of the Government of India to the subject, in the hope that an alteration may be made in the existing arrangements, which, besides being unnecessarily expensive, do not afford satisfactory accommodation to the public.

2. At present, four mails are despatched from England and from India every month, two from and to Bombay, and two from and to Calcutta. According to the time table, 35 days are occupied between London and Calcutta *via* Marseilles, 24 days between London and Bombay. The mail of the 10th January should reach Calcutta on the 13th February, while that of the 18th January should reach Bombay on the 10th February. It is clear that all places within three days' post of Bombay would receive the mail of the 18th January *via* Bombay before the mail of the 10th reached Calcutta. At a place situated as Benares, the mail of the 10th January *via* Calcutta would be delivered on the morning of the 16th February; a mail of the same date, if sent *via* Bombay, would reach Bombay on the 2nd February, and be delivered at Benares on the 7th or 8th February—the mail which left London on the 18th January *via* Bombay would be delivered at Benares on the 15th or 16th February, at the same time or before the mail of the 10th January arrived *via* Calcutta. Benares is about 1,000 miles from Bombay and 422 miles from Calcutta.

3. As I have stated in the preceding paragraph, the mail which left London on the 10th January is due at Calcutta on the 13th February; if it were sent *via* Bombay, it would be due at Bombay on the 2nd February, and according to present rates of speed, and even with existing means of transport, the letters would all be delivered in Calcutta on the 9th or 10th, and all Southampton newspapers by the 12th or 13th. I shall explain below that the period required for land transit will be very materially reduced by the end of next year.

4. The case as regards Madras is similar. The mail

leaving London on the 10th January is due at Madras *via* Galle on the 9th February; if sent by Bombay, it would be due on the 6th February, having reached Bombay on the 2nd idem.

5. It is, I think, clear from the above statement,—*first*, that, under the existing arrangement, a very small portion of India derives any benefit from the two mails which are sent direct to Calcutta; and, *secondly*, that even Madras and Calcutta would receive their mails earlier than they now do, if they received them *via* Bombay instead of by sea.

6. I would, therefore, strongly advocate the entire abandonment of the sea route to Calcutta, and the despatch from London on a fixed day, say Wednesday in each week, of a mail to Bombay for the whole of India. If this measure be carried out, the whole of India will receive the benefit of a weekly mail. At present, a very insignificant portion derive any advantage from it. A saving can be made in the annual subsidy to the extent of the sum paid for 61,904 miles, the difference between the distance travelled in a year by the Post Office steamers by the existing route, and that which would be travelled were Bombay made, as it ought to be, the postal port for all India.

7. I give in margin the distances between the chief ports between Suez and India. It will be seen that Aden is 1,775 miles nearer to Bombay than to Calcutta. The mileage saved on 24 voyages will therefore be 85,680 miles. This will, however, be reduced by the four extra mails, which, if my proposal is carried out, will be despatched from London and from Bombay: the distance from Suez to Bombay being 2,972, the distance traversed in eight voyages (four in each direction) will be 23,776, which deducted from 85,680 gives a net saving east of Suez of 61,904 miles.

Suez to Aden	.. 1,308	
Aden to Galle	.. 2,134	
Galle to Madras	.. 545	3,449
Madras to Calcutta	.. 770	
Aden to Bombay	.. 1,664	

8. A considerable additional saving might also, as it appears to me, be made on the portion of the line between Alexandria and Suez. There are now four mails despatched and received every month *via* Southampton. If there were really a weekly mail for the whole of India, I do not see any reason why more than one mail should be despatched *via* Southampton in each month. The difference of

charge is one penny on each newspaper, and three-pence on each letter; but the Southampton Mail must always be rather more than a week longer in transit than the mail sent *via* Marseilles. The chief difficulty which prevents the adoption of the Marseilles route is the charge on soldiers' letters, which is only one penny for half an ounce. The present French charge is six-pence for half an ounce, but I have little doubt that the French Post Office would consent to a reduction in the charge in the case of soldiers' letters; and I believe that it would be much cheaper to pay the French transit charge on soldiers' letters, than to pay the cost of two extra steamers a month for the purpose of conveying them across the Bay of Biscay and round Spain.

9. I would also suggest that it is probable, that if all letters and newspapers were sent *via* Marseilles, the French Post Office might consent to take a smaller sum than they now require on each letter, and that an uniform rate of six-pence per quarter ounce, divided as shown in margin, would be as profitable to the Post Office as the higher charge, which now varies by half ounces for English postage, and quarter ounces for French postage.

England . ..	1 penny.
France	1 „
Sea & Egypt..	3 „
India	1 „
	6 pence.

10. If the French Post Office will not reduce their charge, and if we are not bound by convention for a term of years to adopt the Marseilles route, the advantages of the Trieste route should be considered. If the direct railway between Vienna and Munich is open, I have little doubt that it would be found the shortest in point of time.

11. If, however, the changes suggested above cannot be carried out, there will, at all events, be no reason to despatch more than two Southampton mails in the month, as no one receives at the present time more than two Southampton mails in a month.

12. In discussing the advantages of a weekly mail to Bombay, and the abandonment of the Calcutta route, I have put aside all consideration of the accommodation to passengers which is afforded by the mail steamers which now ply between Calcutta and Suez. The Government may consider it proper to pay a subsidy to a Company in order to receive the advantage of large and fast passenger steamers to Calcutta;

but there can be no doubt, that if it is not necessary for postal purposes to subsidise steamers on that route, it is not proper to charge the postal revenues of England and India with the amount of the subsidy.

13. There can be no question, that when Calcutta and Bombay and Madras are united by railway, as they will be in the course of the next three years, Bombay will be the port at which the English mails must be landed. By the end of next year, the railway will have advanced considerably in both directions; but even now I will undertake that the mails shall be conveyed across India weekly for an increase of expenditure very much below the sum which will be saved.

14. Before concluding, I must notice the rate at which, according to the official table, the contract steamers are expected to travel. The contract rate is fixed at 10 knots an hour: at that rate, allowing 24 hours at Aden, the time occupied between Suez and Aden* should be 13 days 10 hours. The time occupied between London and Bombay ought not to exceed 20 days.

15. I will now recapitulate the proposals made above, and some of the advantages which I believe will result if they are adopted:—*first*, I recommend that the Calcutta and Madras mails be sent *via* Bombay; *secondly*, that a mail leave London and Bombay on a fixed day in each week, *i. e.* 52 mails a year; *thirdly*, that the subsidy now paid by the Government of India for the conveyance of mails between Aden and Calcutta should be entirely saved. If this were done, all India would receive the advantage of a weekly mail, which is now confined to a very small portion of the Continent. The cost of two extra Southampton mails will be saved. The distance from Suez to Bombay being comparatively trifling, the Government need not be at the mercy of the Great Company, which now monopolises the steam commerce east of Suez.

16. In conclusion, I will only add that I am ignorant of the sum now paid from the revenues of India for the Overland Mail, and I shall be obliged if you can furnish me with copies of any agreement which has been made on the subject with the English Treasury. If the suggestions which are

* Should be Bombay.

made above are adopted, the line specially subsidised for India will be that from Aden to Bombay,—Australia, China, Ceylon, and Mauritius should pay a large share of the cost of the lines between Suez and Marseilles.

No. 117 of 1860.

To W. Grey, Esq.,
Secretary to the Government of India, Calcutta.

Sir,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 1857, dated 3rd September 1860, requesting the opinion of the Chamber respecting the proposition of the Director General of the Post Office for the improvement of the Overland Mail Service.

The establishment of a weekly mail between this port and England is so manifest an improvement, both commercially and politically, that a proposal to that effect cannot but be received with approbation by this community; and the Committee consider that the only part of this question which calls for discussion is, whether it should be carried out at once, or be deferred until the railway system be more fully developed. The Chambers of Calcutta and Madras are probably better able to judge of the effect of the withdrawal of the mail steamers on their special lines than this Chamber can be; and if they could feel assured that the proposed weekly mail *via* Bombay could be delivered by dâk at the other Presidencies without irregularity, there would appear to be no objection whatever to the proposed change. If, on the other hand, reasonable doubt should be felt on this point, it would probably be the safer course to establish for a limited period, even at increased cost, a weekly mail between Bombay and England, leaving the direct Mail service to the other side of India uninterfered with. If this course were adopted, the inland mail communication could be gradually, and therefore the more effectually, improved, and when all doubts as to the safe and rapid transit of heavy mails were removed, the mail subsidy to the Madras and Bengal steamers might be withdrawn, with advantage to the Indian Revenue, and without risk of irregularity in the mail communication with the eastern side of the peninsula.

Upon the general question of the renewal of the mail contract with the Peninsular and Oriental Company, the Committee would venture to submit that it would be highly desirable that an increased rate of speed, commensurate with the improvement in steam navigation, should be stipulated for; by which means the time of transit of the mails from Europe might be considerably shortened, and which would probably lead to the employment of a larger and more commodious class of vessels than that of many of those at present in the service.

The Committee regard the proposed substitution of certain fixed days of the week for the departure of the mail as a decided improvement on the course at present followed.

Under existing circumstances, the Committee are of opinion that the Marseilles route is decidedly preferable to that *via* Trieste, and would gladly see it maintained, unless very important considerations should be found to militate against it. At the same time, they would suggest, that in entering on a new contract, the possibility of the Marseilles route being shut, owing to complications with France, should be kept in view, and that the Trieste route should be provided for as a reserve in case of such an emergency.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 25th October 1860.

APPENDIX F.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHS.

No. 561 of 1860.

To the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce,
Bombay.

Sir,—By desire of the Director General of Telegraphs in India and Ceylon, I have the honor to forward, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, the enclosed extract of his letter No. 7767, to my address.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) R. Murray, Captain,
Supt. Electric Telegraphs, Western Division.

Bombay, 20th November 1860.

Extract of letter No. 7767, *of the* 9*th November* 1860, *from Major* C. Douglas, *Officiating Director General of Telegraphs in India.*

I request you will explain to the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, that the only check afforded me over the irregularities they complain of is that furnished by the complaints of merchants and others, and that I earnestly desire that every message, in the delivery of which gross error or delay has occurred, or which is supposed to have suffered by a preference given in the transmitting of other messages, may be made the subject of a reference to the Complaint Office in Calcutta.

I trust you will also explain that ready means exist, through the medium of the office dates, which my circular No. 4, of the 14th June, directed should be added to all messages, for ascertaining the exact time they have been on the road, and whether or not messages, tendered for transmission after others, have, during transmission, had any undue preference shown them; and that on all occasions in which such undue preference is suspected, the suspicion, if made known to you, will meet with immediate attention, and the result will be promptly communicated.

You will, I trust, also inform them, that one cause of considerable annoyance to the public, both in Calcutta and Bombay, was the practice of transmitting messages between these cities alternately by the direct route *via* Indore and by the longer route *via* Central India; but that the employment of the longer route was prohibited by an order from this department, dated 9th August.

I have also to request that you will offer my thanks, in the name of the department, to the Chamber of Commerce, for the very courteous tone of their communication, and for the forbearance which has been so considerately shown to this the youngest branch of the public service.

(True extract)

(Signed) R. MURRAY, Captain,
Supt. Electric Telegraphs, Western Division.

No. 134 OF 1860.

To Captain R. MURRAY,
Supt. Electric Telegraphs, Western Division, Bombay.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 561 of 1860, dated 20th instant, enclosing extract of letter No. 7767, from Major Douglas, on the subject of the irregularities in the transmission of messages sent by the telegraph.

The Committee will give every publicity to this correspondence, in the hope that aggrieved persons may be induced to send their complaints to Calcutta as a public duty, and

they trust that the measures taken may be the means of removing the chief causes of dissatisfaction.

Upon the subject of intentional delay or unjust priority, it must be only under peculiar circumstances that the recipient of a message has the means of making out a *primâ facie* case, as those who profit by the priority are not likely to afford him any information. It would appear, therefore, to the Committee, that, as it is easily checked in the receiving office itself, it should be regarded as the special duty of the Senior Superintendent in charge to inspect the order of arrival of messages, and in case of irregularity at once to inquire into it. If each message were registered, as it arrived, on a tabular form showing the date of despatch, date of arrival, and period occupied in transmission, there would appear to be little difficulty in at once detecting unusual delay.

Although, doubtless, a vigorous action on the part of the public may greatly contribute to detect disorders, still, from the secret nature of the institution, it is obvious that its efficiency will always mainly depend upon the vigour and tact displayed by those in positions of authority in the establishment.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 28th November 1860.

No. 585 OF 1860.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—In reply to the third paragraph of your letter No. 134 of 1860, received this day, I have to state, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, that every message bears the date, hour, and minute, of its despatch from the station originally sent from; and that every office in my division will, in a short time, furnish a daily journal, in which the above date, &c., and the time of receipt in, and despatch from, the office, will be shown. By the exercise of a strict scrutiny of these journals, any improper priority of

transmission or despatch, it is hoped, will be immediately detected and inquired into, and the person in fault punished. —I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) R. MURRAY, Captain,
Supt. Electric Telegraphs, Western Division.

Bombay, 30*th November* 1860.

No. 1176.

HOME DEPARTMENT,
Electric Telegraphs.

From W. GREY, Esq.,
Secretary to the Government of India,

To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—I am directed to request, that the Bombay Chamber of Commerce will be good enough to furnish the Governor General in Council with a statement of the total number of messages sent or received during a given period—say from a week to a month previous to this date,—by any firms or establishments connected with the Chamber, showing what proportion of them were delivered with reasonable punctuality and correctness, and in what proportion any delay or error occurred so material as to detract from the commercial value of this means of communication.

2 His Excellency in Council desires me to add, that if the Chamber have any suggestions to offer besides those contained in the letter dated the 25th February last, signed by the gentlemen named in the margin, the Government will be glad to receive them.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

Andrew Grant, Esq.
W. Steven, Esq.
A. C. Gumpert, Esq.

(Signed) W. GREY,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Fort William, the 12*th June* 1861.

No. 150 OF 1861.

To W. GREY, Esq.,
Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 1176, dated 12th June 1861, requesting a statement of the total number of messages sent or received, by the members of the Chamber, through the electric telegraph, during a given period, and desiring suggestions for the improvement of the establishment.

The Committee have circulated your letter to the members, and have received returns from twenty-five firms, giving the following results:—

Received with reasonable punctuality and correctness.....	274	messages.
With important errors or delays	16	„
Unintelligible, or so delayed as to be rendered unless.....	8	„
Total received between 1st April & 31st May	298	

Since the above period, the delays have been very considerable on most of the lines, but more particularly on that between Bombay and Calcutta, where messages have not unfrequently taken six to eight days in transmission, and in several instances nine or ten days.

It appears to the Committee, that where the contents of the messages are of no value to others than the addressee, and where the constitution of the message is simple and grammatical, there is but little ground for complaint; but it would seem, that where the temptations to divulge the contents of important messages were considerable, and had been systematically brought to bear on the employés, their integrity was found to give way. The Committee feel it difficult to suggest to Government a remedy for this state of things; but as complaints of similar delinquencies are not frequent in England, they would venture to suggest that the establishment of a Secret Committee, under the guidance of an experienced officer trained in England, would probably have the effect of bringing to justice the real authors of these frauds. At the same time, the Committee believe that an

increased rate of salaries to the lower officials, with the prospect of rewards for exemplary conduct, would raise the general character of the establishment, and greatly promote its efficiency.

A copy of the return by the members is herewith forwarded for your information.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 5th August 1861.

Number of Telegrams received by Indian Telegraphs, during the Two Months from 1st April to 31st May, by the following Firms:—

NAMES OF FIRMS.	HOW DELIVERED.		
	With reasonable punctuality and correctness.	With important errors or delays.	Unintelligible, or so delayed as to be rendered useless.
Messrs. Ritchie, Steuart, and Co...	27	3	1
,, Wm. Nicol and Co.	29	..	..
,, Robert Strong and Co.....	11	..	..
,, Wallace and Co.....	11	2	..
,, W. and A. Graham and Co.	16	..	3 useless from delay. 1 unintelligible.
,, A. H. Huschke and Co....	10	1	..
,, Lyon, Brothers, and Co. ..	6	1	..
,, Finlay, Scott, and Co.	15	..	..
,, Lawrence and Co.	11	..	..
,, Leggatt and Co.....	4	None.	None.
,, Killick, Nixon, and Co....	2	..	..
,, S. Burstall and Co.	6	1	1
,, W. J. Morgan and Co.....	5	..	1
,, Stearns, Hobart, and Co...	11	8	1
,, Alex. C. Brice and Co.....	18	None.	None.

		..	Since 15th May, the delays have been unusually great, probably caused by the monsoon.
„ Cardwell, Parsons, and Co.	4	None.	None.
„ Grey and Co.	6	..	..
„ G. S. King and Co.....	We receive but few messages, and, so far as we recollect, we have no great ground for complaint.		
„ Volkart, Brothers.....	33	Names several times misspelled.	None, as far as we remember; but recently the delays have been great.
„ Macindoe, Rogers, and Co.	5	None.	None.
„ Campbell, Mitchell, and Co.	9	..	..
„ Robinson and Co.....	35	All pretty correct.	All pretty correct.
P. & O. S. N. Company.....	A great number; no record kept.	None.	None.
Commercial Bank of India	Of the period inquired about, we would not complain, but since the 30th April the delays have been very frequent—one message from Calcutta of the other day took nine days to come across.		
The Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China.	..	Many, especially from Calcutta.	Three or four within last week.

(True copy)

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

No. 526 OF 1861.

To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 31st July, I beg to state, for the information of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, that no increase to the extent of telegraph communication has taken place during the past year in the Bombay Presidency, and that, as I have not yet received any copy of the Director General's annual report, I am not in a position to furnish the Chamber with a copy of it, or extracts from its contents. Since last year, telegraph communication has been established to Rangoon.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) R. MURRAY, Captain,
Superintendent of Telegraphs, Western Division.

Sattara, 3rd August 1861.

APPENDIX G.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY COMPANY.

No. 3450 OF 1861.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—In compliance with the request contained in your letter No. 147, of the 31st July, I am desired to forward, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, the accompanying memorandum of the progress of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway during the year ending the 30th June last.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) W. LANGDON,
Secretary.

G. I. P. Railway Company's Offices, Bombay, 18th Sept. 1861.

Memorandum of Progress of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway during the year ending 30th of June 1861, *for the information of the Chamber of Commerce.*

The following sections of the line have been opened during the year:—

North-Eastern Extension.—Shawpoor to Kussarah, 21½ miles, on the 28th January 1861.

North-Eastern Extension.—Egutpoora to Nassick, 31½ miles, on the 28th January 1861.

The total length of new line was 53 miles, and the length open for public traffic was thus increased from 297¾ miles to 350¾ miles, namely:—

Concan Division.

Bombay to Callian, with Mahim Branch	34¾	
South-East Line (Callian to Campoolee)	37½	
North-East Line (Callian to Kussarah)	41¾	
		114

Deccan Division.

South-East Line (Khandalla to Sholapore)	205¼	
North-East Line (Egutpoora to Nassick)	31½	
		236¾
Total		350¾

The railway under construction was 665 miles, comprising the following contracts:—

Contract No. 7,	Bhore Ghaut Incline	13¼	miles.
Do. 9,	Barsee Road to Sholapore	48¾	,,
Do. 10,	Shawpoor to Kussarah	21½	,,
Do. 11,	Thull Ghaut Incline	9½	,,
Do. 12,	Egutpoora to Bhosawul	190½	,,
Do. 13,	Bhosawul to Oomrawuttee	134¼	,,
Do. 14,	Oomrawuttee to Nagpore	108¾	,,
Do. 15,	Bhosawul to Hurdah	138½	,,

Contracts 16 and 17, from Hurdah to Jubbulpore, 198¾ miles, have been staked out, but the works have not been commenced.

All operations connected with the extension from Sholapore to meet the Madras Railway at Moodgul have been suspended for the present.

A trial survey has been made of a branch to Ahmednuggur, leaving the Sholapore line near Patus. This branch would be 49 miles long, and the distance by Railway from Poona to Ahmednuggur 96 miles. The gradients are not very favourable.

Great progress has been made with the works on the Bhore Ghaut Incline.

The longest tunnel and largest viaduct, besides other important works, have been completed; and if no unforeseen casualty occurs, the opening of the Incline by the end of next year may be confidently expected.

Upon the North-Eastern Extension, a further section of 87 miles, from Nassick to Chalisgaum, will be opened early in October. This station is situated on the main line of the Berar traffic, at a distance of about 120 miles from Khamgaum.

A further section, to Julgaum, will probably be opened by the end of next season, and to Bhosawul soon after the next rains.

During the year, the question of the permanent site of the goods terminus has been under discussion.

The Government having specifically refused, for permanent purposes, the present site near Boree Bunder, for which the Railway Company had applied, it was finally resolved to accept the site at Warree Bunder, as being, on the whole, the most eligible then left for their consideration. Although by no means so conveniently situated as the present terminus, the site at Warree Bunder undoubtedly possesses many facilities for the accommodation of a very extensive goods traffic.

In connection with this question, the Government have guaranteed the construction of a road along the south side of the railway from the goods terminus to Boree Bunder.

The Electric Telegraph has been erected to within a short distance of Bhosawul, and arrangements have been made for its speedy completion to Nagpore.

Signal stations will be established at Chalisgaum and the intermediate stations, simultaneously with the opening of the line for public traffic.

APPENDIX H.

WATERSIDE ACCOMMODATION.

No. 2243 OF 1860.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—With reference to the several reclamation schemes which have been or may hereafter be put forth for approval, I am directed to forward eight plans with a specification and estimate for a reclamation of ground from the sea, on the basis of the Honorable A. Malet's scheme, with wet docks indicated, also two sheets of tracings, showing a scheme further modified by the omission of wet docks, and an estimate of the same, together with extracts of two letters from Captain DeLisle, showing the probable financial results of each scheme.

2. On the modified scheme, the pile pier proposed by Mr. Kennelly is also indicated, and his estimate for that portion of the work is not included in Captain DeLisle's estimate.

3. I am instructed to observe, that Government do not in any way pledge themselves to the accuracy of the plans and estimates, or to the correctness of the deductions drawn by Captain DeLisle, nor do they desire to support them in opposition to any other preferable plans which may be proposed.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) WALTER SCOTT, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 9th November 1860.

Extract Paragraphs 1 *to* 6 *of a Letter from Captain* DELISLE, *dated* 24*th October* 1860.

1. I have the honor to forward two general plans and abstract estimate for the revised reclamation scheme, agreeably to your letter No. 2002, of the 9th instant.

2. The estimate has been attained by making necessary additions or deductions to and from the original estimates.

3. To the best of my belief, nothing has been undervalued in these estimates, and much might be reduced in cost by adopting inferior methods of building. The only doubtful points are the price for filling in, as that would require very perfect means and appliances; and the price for tramways, of which I can procure no very certain data.

4. The estimates are of greater amount than those previously submitted, as the area to be reclaimed is greater, and the earthwork much outweighs the other items, but this is counterbalanced by the increased area of land for sale.

The estimated cost is.....Rs.	2,19,47,737
Value of land.....	2,17,05,930
Excess of cost over land.....Rs.	2,41,807

Or about two lakhs and a half.

If, however, the Railway Company are charged for their station and approaches at the same rate as the adjoining land, the amount, Rs. 8,71,200, will leave a surplus of Rs. 6,29,393, or upwards of six lakhs.

5. In addition to the above, charges would be made for wharfage fees, cranage, and use of the tramways; and the probability is, that this project, as it now stands, would not be a bad speculation, even with moderate rates for the abovementioned fees.

6. Mr. Kennelly estimates the cost of his pier at 39 lakhs, rolling stock, plant, warehouses, &c., at 22 lakhs; to this would have to be added the value of land for warehouses, say 10 acres at ten rupees per yard, about 5 lakhs, making a total cost of 66 lakhs.

(True extract)

(Signed) WALTER SCOTT, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

Extract of a Memorandum on the Alterations made in the Honorable A. MALET'S *Reclamation Project between Mazagon and Bombay Castle.*

1. In the original plan, seven boat basins of various sizes are shown.

2. In the present plan there are thirteen boat harbours, each measuring 528 feet in length by 165 feet in width, with intermediate wharves 330 feet in length along the sea line.

4. Sheds are to be provided on the boat wharves for the temporary storage of goods, and also railed spaces for bulky or heavy articles which do not require protection from the weather. These, however, have not been included in the present estimates, which only comprise the cost of reclaiming the ground, and putting the surface in a fit state for receiving buildings by completing roads and drains and the general slope of the land.

5. *Building Lots.*—The cross roads from east to west are arranged so that one shall lead down to the centre of each boat wharf; the longitudinal roads are arranged at distances of about 4 chains or 264 feet,—these roads are almost all 1 chain or 66 feet in width.

6. A broad road, 2 chains or 132 feet wide, runs along the whole of the boat wharves, and thence continues along the rear of the West Dock. This has been done to allow for tramways, should they be found convenient hereafter.

7. No material alteration has been made in this part of the scheme, except in the arrangements required to adapt the lots to the irregular boundary of the present sea line. A considerable diminution has, however, been made in the extent of this compared with the other, partly owing to the reclamation made by the Elphinstone Land and Press Company.

8. The difference is 67 acres less than in the original scheme, which, however, probably includes the roads as well as the plots.

9. The remaining space in the original plan was divided into one area of about 39 acres, not allotted for any special purpose; a space of about 52 acres for railway purposes; and another of about acres 13 for the Custom House and bonded warehouses.

10. In the present design, the alterations have been

considerable, owing to the graving and wet docks, which will be noticed presently.

11. The two railways are to have passenger termini of eleven acres each, sufficient to admit of goods sidings if required; and ample approaches to the stations have been provided.

12. It was ascertained from the Railway Department that passenger stations only were to be provided on the reclaimed ground, and that the goods stations are to be situated elsewhere.

13. For the Custom House, about seven and a half acres, and for the bonded warehouses about nine acres, have been allowed.

14. Various irregular portions of land, the respective extents of which are noted on the plan, remain for disposal as occasion may require; those near the Town and Fort could probably be sold at good prices for building purposes.

15. *Docks.*—The original plan appears to have been submitted to the late Mr. Robert Stephenson, whose opinion was given in a letter, dated 28th March 1859, to J. Cosmo Melville, Esq.

16. Mr. Stephenson stated that he was unable to give any opinion on the merits of the scheme generally, as much depended on local requirements and difficulties, respecting which he had no information before him.

17. The plans comprised an import dock 1,850 feet long by 380 feet wide, an export dock 1,500 feet long and 380 feet wide, with an entrance lock at the southern extremity of the former, a curved breakwater near Bombay Castle, with an ordnance wharf, a railway basin, and a boat quay.

18. Mr. Stephenson approved of the general direction of the sea wall, but stated that the single entrance of the southern extremity was objectionable, if it could be avoided; and that the entrance should be wider, say 200 feet, and of more easy access in an open harbour, subject to the effect of the monsoon blowing across the low land of Colaba.

19. The form of the dock was also objected to, on the ground of the great length of sea wall compared with the wharfage accommodation, and the inconvenience of vessels for the export dock having to pass through the whole length of the narrow import dock.

20. With reference to coffer dams, Mr. Stephenson gave it as his opinion that they should be avoided if possible, on account of the great expense of constructing them on a rock foundation covered with a few feet of mud, and recommended rubble stone walls with puddle between them up to low-water mark, so that they should be water-tight, and obviate the necessity of coffer dams.

21. Mr. Stephenson also sketched a form of dock which he thought suitable to the requirements of Bombay. This consisted of a single wet dock of large dimensions, with jetties springing from the mainland. The sea wall curved outwards, to give room for an entrance basin, capable of holding several vessels at a time. The entrances were to have single pairs of gates, with grooves for caissoons.

22. He also recommended that a space should be set aside at the northern extremity of the docks for graving docks.

23. In the present plan, space sufficient for a large graving dock and workshops has been provided at the north end of the dock.

24. The latter has been designed generally in accordance with Mr. Stephenson's recommendations, except that the outline of the sea wall and the arrangement of the entrance basin have been altered to suit the tidal currents. It will be observed that the ebb tide flows obliquely from below Cross Island towards the Castle, and that the outward curve in Mr. Stephenson's sketch runs almost directly across it. The present design was prepared and submitted to the Master Attendant and approved of by him.

25. The number of jetties from the mainland in the interior of the dock was increased.

26. The boat quay is now placed near Bombay Castle, and will afford easy means of communication with the Custom House for passengers landing from Overland steamers, and also give ready access to the Master Attendant's office from shipping in the harbour.

27. With respect to the enormous width of 200 feet for the dock entrance, the Master Attendant was of opinion that it was quite unnecessary, as no more than one vessel could with safety be passed through at any one time. It is proposed to reduce the width to the ordinary dimensions of first class dock gates, viz. 80 feet.

28. As the present estimates do not include the sea walls for the docks, it is scarcely necessary to discuss the question of rubble walls *versus* coffer dams. It is sufficient to mention that, for the sea walls in the reclamation scheme proper, it was found cheaper to adopt the algerain method of lined caissoons in preference to rubble foundations, and this would apply still more strongly to the dock walls.

29. It has been necessary to raise the general level of the reclamation near the docks to 94 feet above datum, instead of 91, to obtain the usual height of quay wall above high-water mark for large shipping.

30. Large sluices are to be provided in the sea walls for changing the water in the dock occasionally, to obviate bad smells as much as possible.

(True extract)

(Signed) WALTER SCOTT, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

To the MEMBERS of the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

GENTLEMEN,—At a time when it seems probable that some steps will shortly be taken to improve the accommodation of the port of Bombay, and when the public mind is divided upon the several schemes which have been brought forward for that purpose, the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce deem it to be their duty to bring the matter before the Members, in order to ascertain which of the several plans proposed meets with the most general support. To effect this, they have selected four of the schemes which have been brought forward, and which appear to them to be most practicable, and most in public favour. These are:—

I.—A plan for an extensive reclamation of ground from the sea between Mazagon and the Castle, combined with a landing pier at which ships may load and discharge, such as proposed by Mr. Kennelly. This is the scheme which appears to have the approval of the local Government.

II.—A plan for reclamation of ground to the same extent as in the former case, combined with a system of wet docks where ships may be loaded and discharged. This is the

scheme of Sir Henry Lecke's projected Company, and was formerly known as Malet's Scheme.

III.—A plan for a landing pier for loading and discharging ships, combined with reclamation of ground, but to a much more limited extent than in the two former cases. This scheme is known as Mr. Kennelly's Pier Scheme.

IV.—A plan for reclamation of ground from the sea from Mazagon to the Castle, terminating with a sea wall for the whole distance, but not conjoined with any pier or dock scheme; it being intended that goods should be landed or shipped by means of improved cargo boats.

In all these four cases it may be taken for granted that the projected works will include an extended and improved system of warehouses, as well as graving dock accommodation.

The Committee do not think it necessary to include the Back Bay scheme, as it does not seem to have the confidence of the public, or to be feasible in itself.

As the object of the Committee in this reference to the Chamber is to ascertain which of the four schemes above mentioned has the approval of the majority of the members, and as, in giving their opinion, it is understood that members do not pledge themselves to an approval of the details of any of the plans, but simply state which plan seems to them the best as a *basis* for the improvement of the port, the Committee would suggest that members state their views by simply undersigning one or other of the four schemes, as annexed hereto, without comment; or in the event of their disapproving of all, by signing in the column added for that purpose. The Committee recommend this course, in order to avoid the breaking up of the subject into numerous subdivisions, by which the object of ascertaining whether any one of the four projects brought before the Chamber has the approval of a decided majority of the members would probably be defeated.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) ANDREW GRANT,
Chairman.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 20th November 1860.

Mr. Malet's scheme for reclamation from Mazagon, combined with Mr. Kennelly's Pier.	Sir Henry Leeke's scheme for Wet and Dry Docks, with reclamation from Mazagon.
Dirom, Hunter, & Co. Ewart, Latham, & Co. *P. P.* Killick, Nixon & Co., Wm. Nixon.	J. P. Cornforth & Co. W. J. Morgan & Co. Robt. Angus. H. B. Macculloch. Geo. S. King & Co. R. A. Robinson & Co. *P. P.* Leckie & Co., H. Byne. W. Sim & Co. Robt. Davidson.

Mr. Kennelly's Ship Pier Scheme, with reclamation for warehouse accommodation in its immediate vicinity.	Reclamation with plain Sea Wall, without reference to Pier or Wet Docks.	For Members who approve of none of the foregoing Schemes.
Campbell, Mitchell, & Co. Volkart, Brothers. Finlay, Scott, & Co. Grey & Co. Heycock & Co. Lawrence & Co. A. H. Huschke & Co. Comber, Son, & Co. J. Rich. Nasmyth, Macdonald, & Co. W. F. Stearns & Co. F. A. Palmer & Co.	Ritchie, Steuart, & Co. W. & A. Graham & Co. Wm. Nicol & Co. Leggatt & Co. Robert Strong & Co. Wallace & Co. Dadabhoy Hormusjee Cama & Co. John Skinner.	Lyon, Brothers, & Co.

Mr. Kennelly's Ship Pier Scheme, with reclamation for warehouse accommodation in its immediate vicinity.	Reclamation with plain Sea Wall, without reference to Pier or Wet Docks.	For Members who approve of none of the foregoing Schemes.
S. Burstall & Co. *P. P.* Martin, Young, & Co. N. Fulcher.		

We approve of anything that will improve the present system.

Cardwell, Parsons, & Co.

W. C. Sillar & Co. Macindoe, Rogers, & Co. A. C. Brice & Co.		

No. 1 OF 1861.

To Colonel WALTER SCOTT,
Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Marine, Harbour, and Navigation.

SIR,—With reference to their letter No. 136 of 1860, dated 1st December, referring to the different schemes of harbour improvement, I have the honor, by direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, to inform you that the several most feasible schemes have been laid before the members for their opinions, and the following is the result:—

1. Three members have declared their preference for a plan for an extensive reclamation of ground from the sea between Mazagon and the Castle, combined with a landing pier at which ships may load and discharge, such as proposed by Mr. Kennelly. This is the scheme which appears to have the approval of the local Government.

2. Nine members have declared their preference for a plan for reclamation of ground to the same extent as in the

former case, combined with a system of wet docks, where ships may be loaded and discharged. This is the scheme of Sir Henry Leeke's projected Company, and was formerly known as Malet's Scheme.

3. Seventeen members have declared their preference for a plan for a landing pier for loading and discharging ships, combined with reclamation of ground, but to a much more limited extent than in the two former cases. This scheme is known as Mr. Kennelly's Pier Scheme.

4. Eight members have declared their preference for a plan for reclamation of ground from the sea from Mazagon to the Castle, terminating with a sea wall for the whole distance, but not conjoined with any pier or dock scheme; it being intended that goods shall be landed or shipped by means of improved cargo boats.

5. Seven members have not signified their approval of any one of the schemes in particular.

It thus appears that Mr. Kennelly's scheme, comprising a landing pier and reclamation of ground in its neighbourhood sufficient for warehouses, and in connection with the pier, has the approval of a greater number of the members than any of the other plans, as that most likely to afford improved accommodation to meet the wants of the growing trade of the port within a reasonably early period.

It should be observed, however, that in thus recording their preference, members were not held to be in any way pledged to approval of the *details* of any of the schemes.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 10th January 1861.

No. 136 OF 1860.

To H. L. ANDERSON, Esq.,
Chief Secretary to Government.

SIR,—The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce are at present trying to elicit from the members of the Chamber their individual opinions relative to the different schemes for harbour improvement now before the public, in order that

they may ascertain whether any one of these has the support of a decided majority of the mercantile community.

For this purpose, they have placed before the members the schemes which seem most in favour, and asked each member to say which seems to him the most desirable.

As it is of importance that the opinions should be concentrated on as few schemes as possible, the Committee take the liberty of asking the Government whether there is any truth in a report that has reached them, to the effect that some of the schemes projected have been pronounced to be wholly impracticable by the Government Consulting Engineers and harbour authorities.

The Committee are very anxious to have this information, as, if the report is correct, they will of course at once strike out the impracticable scheme or schemes from their circular, so as to bring the whole weight of opinion to bear only on such plans as are capable of being carried out.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) ANDREW GRANT,
Chairman of the Chamber Committee.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 1st December 1860.

No. 4610 OF 1860.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

From H. L. ANDERSON, Esq.,
Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay,

To ANDREW GRANT, Esq.,
Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, relative to the different schemes for harbour improvement now before the public, and to state, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, that your letter has been transferred to the Public Works Department for consideration and disposal.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. L. ANDERSON,
Chief Secretary.

Bombay Castle, 1st December 1860.

No. 2459 of 1860.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
Marine, Harbour, and Navigation.

To A. GRANT, Esq.,
Chairman of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—Having placed before the Honorable the Governor in Council your letter dated 1st December 1860, I am directed to acquaint you, in reply to the inquiry therein made, that Government have not received any information which leads them to suppose that any of the schemes proposed for harbour improvement is wholly impracticable, and that they expect that parties who may propose to undertake any works, in connection with any schemes that may be finally adopted, will themselves calculate whether the works are likely to be remunerative or not.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) WALTER SCOTT, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 13*th December* 1860.

No. 1857 of 1860.

From E. L. JENKINS, Esq.,
Officiating Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium,
To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—The introduction to Mr. Spooner's printed Trade Report for the last two years has ended with the following remarks:—

What we most stand in need of at the port of Bombay are—

1*st*, Enlarged custom house premises.

2*nd*, Extended wharfage, and also quay accommodation with covered sheds.

3*rd*, Warehouses on a very large scale.

4*th*, Improved description of cargo boats.

5*th*, Improved system of landing cargo, so that it may be landed at fair and moderate rates, and without the great delays and obstacles which at present exist.

6th, Docks for ships requiring repairs, or requiring to be examined or overhauled. At present there are only the Government Docks and the P. and O. Company's Docks, and these are frequently not available for the use of the merchant ships.

2. These remarks have attracted the attention of His Excellency Sir George Russell Clerk, and he has expressed an intention of making inquiries, with a view to ascertain whether anything can be done to afford better accommodation than is now available. I shall, therefore, be much obliged if you will inform me whether the Chamber of Commerce, as a body, are prepared to offer any suggestions either for temporary or permanent improvements.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) E. L. JENKINS,
Officiating Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium.

Bombay, Office of the Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium, 17th December 1860.

No. 12 OF 1861.

To Colonel WALTER SCOTT,
Secretary to Government, Public Works Department,
Bombay.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to reply to your letter No. 2512 of 1860, dated 22nd December last, handing draft rules, which it is proposed to issue, relative to grants of land to Joint Stock Companies for public works, and requesting the opinion of the Chamber in regard to them.

2. The subject has had the full consideration of the Committee, who have, in addition, consulted the Chamber at large on the matter, and the general opinion seems to be that the rules proposed are over stringent in their character, and that some of them might be altered with advantage. The Chamber fully agrees with the Government that some wholesome check against reckless speculation is very desirable in the case of public works proposed to be undertaken by Joint Stock Companies, which may involve public interests to a serious extent, as well as the outlay of large sums of

money. But, on the other hand, such checks should interfere to as small an extent as is consistent with their efficiency, and with the development of legitimate enterprise, in the construction of useful works. This latter object, the Chamber conceives, has not been sufficiently kept in view in framing the rules submitted for its opinion.

3. The first five rules seem to contain nothing objectionable, and are mainly intended to invite publicity and discussion of proposed undertakings, and to warn parties interested that such schemes are about to be brought forward. Exception may, perhaps, be taken to a clause in the third rule, with reference to the parties who are to have notice served on them. In the rule referred to, they are "all parties whose rights are or will be affected by the proposed undertaking." This might, with advantage, be a little more definite. In most cases, it will be very difficult to ascertain, with exactness, what are the interests which may be affected by large undertakings after they have been carried out; and it would seem desirable to put some limitation to the requirement of giving notice under the rules. The clause might run thus —" Whose rights are affected, or are likely to be affected."

4. The sixth and seventh rules are those which seem most open to objection. The first provides that the deed of association shall be duly signed and the capital subscribed, or, in other words, that the company shall be fully organised, before application is to be made to Government. It appears to be insisting on too much, to make this absolutely necessary. It can hardly be expected that a company can be thus fully organised before the projectors have any idea whether the sanction of Government, and the necessary grant of land, are to be given: whether, in fact, the project is to be called into existence or not. There is, no doubt, a propriety in Government taking steps to ascertain whether the projectors of a company are in earnest or not; but this may be done sufficiently securely by requiring that a certain proportion, say a half of the capital, shall be subscribed for by responsible persons, or, at the most, by stipulating that reasonable security shall be given that, in the event of the sanction of Government being obtained, the works shall be proceeded with within a certain time. The Government sanction would of course be contingent on the rest of the capital being subscribed, and the

works commenced without undue delay. The seventh rule provides that a tenth part of the capital shall be lodged in the hands of the Accountant General, as a guarantee for the carrying out of the works. This sum is not to be withdrawn without the consent of Government, given on the certificate of the Secretary for Public Works, that the project is wholly or partially completed, or that it is rejected or withdrawn. This provision appears to be a needless locking up of capital, which, in large undertakings, may amount to a very considerable sum of money. Ten per cent. of the capital seems altogether unnecessary as a guarantee; and if this has to be paid up in addition to the money required for carrying on the works, there is little doubt that the provision will have the effect of nipping in the bud many useful and beneficial public undertakings. In this country, where, as a rule, money is of much more value than at home, it is unreasonable that one-tenth part of the sum to be devoted to the development of the resources of the country should thus remain so unprofitably invested for an indefinite period: the fact of a specified portion of the capital having been subscribed for, by responsible persons approved by the Government, along with the engagement of these parties to begin the works within a specified time, with the forfeiture of the rights obtained from Government as an alternative in event of the non-fulfillment of such engagement, coupled with the tangible security of the works themselves as they proceed, ought to be sufficient, without the necessity of a company's keeping so large a proportion of its capital unemployed. The Committee are aware that the rule regarding the amount of deposit is taken from the practice of the House of Commons in regard to railway bills; but in the case of railways, the deposits are released on the approval of Parliament being given; and even were it not so, the Committee would suggest that it is by no means desirable to introduce the cumbrous and expensive initiatory measures connected with English railways into India, where every encouragement ought to be given to investment of capital, and any unnecessary trammels at their outset, to companies associated for useful public purposes, studiously avoided. Another reason why it is not necessary to be so stringent as at home is, that in public undertakings there, private rights are arbitrarily interfered with by Parliament for the public good; and

it is indispensable that security shall be given, before these rights are sacrificed, that the public object which overrules them shall be carried out: whereas in the case of Government grants of land in India, only the Government rights are likely to be interfered with, and these are in a great measure protected by the power reserved of resuming possession should the works not be promptly carried out, or the project be abandoned.

5. With regard to the tenth rule, in which it is declared that the sanction or approbation of Government shall not be considered as conveying approval of any undertaking in an engineering or pecuniary point of view, it appears scarcely possible that the public can view the Government sanction otherwise than as an approval, at all events in an engineering point of view, seeing that the Government, as the trustees of the public, must satisfy themselves of the feasibility of a scheme before giving their sanction, which involves their parting with public property in order to carry it out.

6. The eleventh rule refers to compensation to be made to those whose rights are interfered with by any proposed scheme, and its intention seems to be to protect the Government against any claim for damage on account of any sanction they may grant; but in as far as it recognises and appears to stipulate for compensation being paid for consequential damage to surrounding property, the clause appears objectionable. The rights of individuals to satisfaction, either for direct or consequential damage, are defined and secured to them by the law; and as it is presumed that this rule applies exclusively to the question of liability as between the Government and the Company, the rule might with advantage be altered so as to be a simple protection to the Government from liability of any kind, without appearing to recognise rights of third parties, as it does at present.

7. The twelfth rule enacts that the promoters of any scheme shall submit to Government a table showing the maximum rates they propose to levy, and binding themselves not to increase them without sanction of Government. This, it is presumed, can only refer to cases where an Act of the Legislative Council is passed in favour of a company, granting exclusive rights against the public at large. If the taking advantage of the undertaking be left optional with the public, the rates to be charged should be left to the company

itself, who could not long maintain a higher scale of charges than the accommodation afforded to the public was worth.

8. The above are some of the objections which appear to exist to the rules as they at present stand. The Committee are of opinion that a few more simple and less cramping regulations are all that are necessary to secure the Government and the public against schemes of a mere speculative nature, never intended to be carried out; and that after a company is formed, the enactments of the Registration Act, No. XIX. of 1857, are sufficient to keep a Registered Joint Stock Company to the terms of its contract.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 31st January 1861.

No. 396 OF 1861.

From E. L. JENKINS, Esq.,
Deputy Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium,

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—I solicit the favor of an early reply to my letter No. 1857, dated the 17th December 1860, on the subject of increased accommodation required at the Custom House.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) E. L. JENKINS,
Deputy Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium.

Bombay, Custom House, 21st March 1861.

No. 31 OF 1861.

To E. L. JENKINS, Esq.,
Deputy Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium,
Bombay.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letters Nos. 1857 of 1860, and 396 of 1861, dated 17th December and 21st March.

There exists very considerable diversity of opinion regarding the most eligible mode of supplying the great want of increased accommodation at this port, and various schemes are before the public with the view of meeting the emergency: the Committee therefore find it difficult to express, on behalf of the Chamber, any decided opinion upon the respective projects.

In order to ascertain the views of the members of the Chamber generally, their opinions were asked upon the four most feasible plans of harbour improvement, and the result of this reference was communicated to Government in letter No. 1 of 1861, dated 10th January, of which I hand you annexed copy.

The subject still occupies the attention of the Committee, and as soon as any definite conclusion can be arrived at, I shall have the honor of communicating it to you.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 1st April 1861.

APPENDIX I.

MEASUREMENT OF COTTON BALES.

To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—We, the undersigned, having been appointed by the shipmasters now in the Port of Bombay to lay before you the existing grievances under which we suffer in the measurement of cotton, have, by appointment, met the Committee of your Chamber to investigate the matter, and to provide a remedy for those evils which on all hands are admitted to exist. After a long and patient discussion of the subject in all its bearings, it was deemed advisable that the following regulations should be laid before you as the best and most effectual means of preventing, as far as is at present possible, the impositions now in practice.

1*st*.—That it shall be imperative on the shipper to produce on the bunder the whole of the cotton for which the shipmaster is called upon to give an average measurement. At present there is insufficient space for this being carried out: we therefore request that you will interfere in this matter, and take such steps as you may deem necessary to enable this rule to be carried out.

2*nd*.—That it be imperative on every shipmaster to have his ship's name marked on the body of every bale for which he gives an average, to prevent the possibility of larger bales being substituted for those measured; and that the bales so measured and marked shall be shipped the first tide after.

We believe that if these rules were strictly enforced, they would tend greatly to remove the present unfair system of

measurement which we complain of. If every shipping order had these rules embodied, it would ensure their being fulfilled by both parties.

(Signed) J. PRICE, *Echo.*
„ C. G. GRANT, *Inkermann.*
„ R. HUTCHINSON, *Indian Ocean.*
„ W. TATE, *Madge Wildfire.*
„ J. H. FAULKNER, *Typhoon.*

To the CHAIRMAN of the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—The shipmasters in Bombay Harbour being desirous of the decision of your Chamber on their memorial on the subject of cotton measurement, the Committee is solicitous of an early reply thereto.

A meeting of the shipmasters is convened for Thursday the 24th instant, at 3 o'clock P. M., and the Committee beg the favour of a reply previously to the hour of the meeting in question.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) J. PRICE.

Bombay, January 22nd, 1861.

To Captain PRICE,
Chairman of the Committee of Shipmasters, Bombay.

SIR,—I am directed by the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce to inform you, that the subject of the rules to be adopted to improve the system of measurement of bales is now under the consideration of the Committee, and I hope in a few days to be able to acquaint you with the result.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 23rd January 1861.

No. 13 of 1861.

To the Chairman of the Committee of Shipmasters,
Bombay.

Sir,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have to hand you annexed copy of the rules referring to the measurement of bales, agreed to at the meeting of the Committee held 1st February 1861,—and remain, &c.,

(Signed) H. Brooke,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 5th February 1861.

Resolutions of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, under instructions from the Chamber, given at their Meeting on Tuesday the 15*th January* 1861.

1. That it shall be allowed to every master of a ship, loading cotton at this port, to insist on seeing all the bales of cotton that are to be shipped by his vessel, and taking an average from them ; and in order to insure their getting the bales they have seen, that it shall be allowed to them to mark each bale with the name of the vessel it is to be shipped by, or any other distinguishing mark, to be approved of by the Committee of the Chamber. The mark to be placed on the side of the bale between the ropes, on the reverse of the side where the shipper's marks are.

2. That after measurement has been given for any number of bales, no question shall be raised by the captain as to accepting the measurement for that number; and this to hold good whether the shipmaster chooses to avail himself of the permission to stamp or not.

3. That the shipper's agents shall afford all reasonable assistance to the shipmaster, to enable him to mark the bales and measure for the average to be given.

4. That the rules for taking the average measurement remain the same as heretofore.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 13 of 1861, dated 5th February, together with a copy of the rules for the measurement of bales, passed by the Chamber of Commerce at their meeting held on the 1st February 1861; and in reply I beg to say, that I will, at the earliest possible date, call a meeting of the Committee, and all other shipmasters now in port who have interested themselves in the previous question, and lay the new rules adopted by the Chamber of Commerce before them,—and remain, &c.,

(Signed) W. JOHNS,
Chairman of the Committee of Shipmasters.

Bombay, 6th February 1861.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—I respectfully beg to inform you, that in accordance with my communication of the 6th instant, I convened a meeting of the shipmasters this day at the Exchange Rooms, and laid before them the communication from the Chamber embodying the new regulations respecting the measurement of cotton bales, as adopted at their sitting on the 1st February, and in reply beg to state—*first*, that the entire body of shipmasters present their best thanks for the same, and for the good intended them thereby; but they respectfully beg to observe, that the regulation for marking the bales, though very good in theory, is wholly inapplicable to remedy the existing evil, in consequence of the want of room, and the crowded state of the bunder; *secondly*, that the meeting is fully sensible of the difficulty merchants labour under, in respect of the malpractices of their muccadums, and of their inability to control the same; they therefore respectfully suggest, that the best and the most efficient mode of remedying the evil complained of is, that the bales should be measured at the ship's gangway. Should this plan not be approved of by the Chamber, the shipmasters will be glad to entertain any other proposition the Chamber may wish to

adopt, and which may effectually protect them against the system so frequently complained of.

The shipmasters further respectfully beg to state, that they are determined to continue this agitation by all fair and honorable means, until they obtain that protection and relief from the great existing evil, which all acknowledge they at present labour under.

I would also beg to observe, that, in forwarding this paper, I am only embodying the sentiments of the meeting, and not offering any opinion of my own on the subject.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) W. JOHNS.

Bombay, 8th February 1861.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—When Captain Price left this port, he requested me to preside as his proxy at the meeting of shipmasters that would necessarily be convened, to receive the reply of the Chamber of Commerce to their application to that body respecting the cotton measurement question. Herewith I beg to forward to the Chamber the resolutions adopted by the shipmasters at their meeting on Friday the 8th instant, and thus, having fulfilled my promise to Captain Price, it is not my intention to interfere further in this matter.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) W. JOHNS.

No. 16 OF 1861.

To Captain W. JOHNS,
Late Chairman of the Committee of Shipmasters, Bombay.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 8th instant, and, in reply, to express their regret that the rules drawn up by the Committee do not meet the views of the shipmasters.

With regard to the proposition to measure cotton at the gangway of the ship, instead of on shore, I am directed to

state, that the opinion of the Chamber appears unanimous that such a course is quite inadmissible.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 19th February 1861.

To the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, Bombay.

GENTLEMEN,—Annexed I beg to forward to you copy of resolutions passed at a meeting of the Committee of this Association, held this day, relating to the system at present existing at Bombay of pressing and measuring cotton for shipment; and, agreeably with those resolutions, I beg, on behalf of the Committee, respectfully to urge upon your Chamber the adoption forthwith of the change of system pointed out in the first resolution.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) JAMES SMITH,
Chairman.

Shipowners' Association, Liverpool, 18th February 1861.

At a meeting of the Committee of the Liverpool Shipowners' Association, held the 15th day of February, 1861,—

Present,—JAMES SMITH, Esq., in the Chair; &c., &c., &c.

It was unanimously resolved, that this Committee are of opinion, that the system at present existing at Bombay of pressing and measuring cotton for shipment is most injurious to the shipowner, and in very many instances has caused a loss of 10 to 15 per cent. on the freight to which the shipowner is justly entitled. And that in future, to prevent injustice to the shipowner, the system of measurement for shipment should be, that the consignee of the ship should appoint a competent person to measure a fair average of the bales, taken indiscriminately, as they pass over the side of the vessel.

And it was also resolved, that the Chairman of this Association should write to the Chamber of Commerce of Bombay with the above resolution, and respectfully urge

upon that Chamber the adoption forthwith of the change of system in the measurement of cotton pointed out in the above resolution.

(Extracted from the proceedings.)

(Signed) CARSON, ELLIS, & FIELD,
Secretaries.

No. 88 OF 1861.

To JAMES SMITH, Esq.,
Chairman, Shipowners' Association, Liverpool.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 18th February, urging, on behalf of your Association, the adoption of a system by which bales of cotton should be measured as they pass over the ship's side, instead of, as at present, on the bunders.

The Committee instruct me to say, that the plan of measuring cotton bales, acted on in this port, having been found to admit of considerable abuse, the subject has had the earnest attention of the Chamber for many years past, with a view, if possible, to devise a means whereby shipowners might be the better secured against unjust measurements; but the defective accommodation provided for so bulky a trade as that in which this port is engaged has been found an insuperable obstacle. The system now proposed by your Association has been repeatedly discussed, but abandoned, as impossible in practice. It frequently happens, that a firm is shipping by ten or twelve vessels at one and the same time, and as the bales are often kept lying alongside for days, to have the measurement taken as they pass over the gangway would necessitate the keeping a well paid and trustworthy clerk in constant attendance at each of those ten or twelve ships. In fact, the impracticability of this plan was admitted by the deputation of shipmasters, with whom this question was discussed by the Committee in January last; and you will notice, by the enclosed copy of a letter from the deputation just named, the members of which are thoroughly acquainted with the trade of this port, that

the Chamber of Commerce was asked to pass a resolution empowering the shipmasters to mark each bale to be measured, with a view to prevent the practice now often had recourse to, of substituting large bales for the small ones on which measurement had been given. It was agreed that, under existing circumstances, this was all the Chamber could do, and a general meeting was held on the 15th January last, at which a resolution was passed, empowering the captain to mark each bale at the time of measuring; but owing, it is believed, to the labour this would entail, the system has not been acted on.

The existing rules provide, that every bale shall be presented for measurement on a bunder immediately before being placed into the boat for despatch to the ship; but the extent of wharfage available for this purpose being at present extremely small, and disproportionate to the wants of the port, a limited number of bales only can be spread out, at one time; and the *presence of the captain* is, strictly speaking, required at the bunders twice or three times a day. Owing, it is to be presumed, to the difficulty of attending so frequently, it has become very much the custom for the arranging of measurements to be left to the ship's dubash or his assistant, in either case a Native. Measurements, indeed, are frequently given on the part of those acting for the ship, days before the bales are pressed, and to this laxness, mainly, must be attributed the growth of the injustice to which shipowners are now frequently subjected.

The deputation of shipmasters, who waited on the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce in January last, stated that their complaint of false measurements was directed chiefly, almost wholly, against the cotton shipped by Natives —of late years one-half the whole trade of the port in this staple,— and to prevent frauds in which the Chamber of Commerce is powerless.

A new press company, which will be at work in the course of another year, will provide lashings, and guarantee measurement on board, and the Committee hope that other companies will, under force of competition, be induced to adopt the same system, which would effectually overcome the grievance complained of by your Association; and, under any circumstance, the evil will be greatly mitigated, if it do not altogether disappear, when one or other of the schemes

now before Government, to provide increased accommodation for the trade of the port, shall have been carried out.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 11th May 1861.

APPENDIX J.

FAIRS.

No. 2656 OF 1861.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR,—I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to transmit to you, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, copies of the papers noted in the margin, relative to the last Annual Fair held at Mhyjee in Khandeish.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

Extract paras. 7 to 16 of a letter from the Acting 3rd in Command, Khandeish Bheel Corps, dated 17th May, No. 12, with Appendices.

Extract paras. 1 to 3 of a resolution by the Honorable Board.

(Signed) A. KINLOCH FORBES,
Acting Seretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 17th July 1861.

Extract Paragraphs 7 to 16 of a Letter from the Acting 3rd in Command, Khandeish Bheel Corps, dated 17th May, No. 12.

7. At your request I beg to subjoin, *en resumé*, a slight narrative of the rise and progress of the Mhyjee fair, which, although not quite so explicit as I could wish, is the best I am able to afford, gleaned from hearsay traditions (there being no Mahratta records on the subject), imperfectly hand-

ed down from father to son, up to the date when the Honorable East India Company took possession of Khandeish.

8. Upwards of two hundred years ago, a *soi-disant* female saint or goddess expired in the village of Chinchkeira, the present site of the fair. Humble devotees began to visit her tomb, and eventually a temple containing her image (a large brass idol about 3 feet high) was built, and called after her, viz. Mahojee, since corrupted by us into Mhyjee. Pilgrims made this a place of yearly resort, usually appearing in large numbers during the full moon of the month Poosh Shood, corresponding to our month of January. As usual in most parts of India, this religious assembly merged gradually into a semi-mercantile one, and at the present moment the worship of the deceased goddess is decidedly a very secondary consideration to the merchants who assemble at the fair.

9. In former years, the most disgusting orgies used to take place, inaugurating, as it were, the Mhyjee fair. This state of things, however, gave way to civilisation, and hook-hanging and other equally debasing practices are now things of the past.

10. Governments anterior to ours, undoubtedly protected and encouraged the fair; and it was, in the commencement of the present century, of considerable (relative) importance.

11. It, however, frequently occurred, that bands of licentious marauders swept down the valley of the Girna, and plundered or ransomed the unfortunate merchants, pilgrims, and others temporarily residing at the fair.

12. Since the British took possession, these raids ceased of course, and the importance of this great emporium has been steadily on the increase. What effect the railway will have, when complete (which it will be in a few months), cannot be doubted. The increased facility with which merchants will be able to carry their goods to and from the fair, and the advantage to be derived from an electric telegraph, which will be laid along the line by the Railway Company, will tend, in such a cotton-growing district as this, and close to the great cotton-growing valley of Berar, in all humun probability, to increase the traffic and importance of the fair fifty-fold.

13. Whilst on the subject of cotton, a subject of deep anxiety at present, I would beg to point out the very in-

ferior quality grown in Khandeish, a province second to none as far as the quality of the land is concerned, and admirably adapted for the growth of cotton, being intersected by such rivers as the Taptee, Girna, and many others of lesser note. All those I have spoken to on the subject agree that the land in Khandeish is fully equal to, if not better, than that grown here. I have had some trouble in finding out how Khandeish became overrun of an inferior kind of cotton seed. It was thus: a few years ago, a Marwarree, named Seewa Lall Kissondass, resident of Paldee, brought a large quantity of Malwa cotton seed, and sold it to the ryots of all the surrounding villages, who, finding it yielded a larger quantity, though of much inferior quality, than that formerly grown, generally adopted it, and it has now become the most prevailing staple in the province. In bringing this to your notice, it may not be out of place to point out the evil effect it has on the Government Factory sawgins at Dhurrungaum. It is well known that the cotton merchants of Khandeish only send that kind to the Government sawgins which they are unable to clean in any other way, and being vastly inferior to any other kind exhibited for sale, they blame the gins instead of the staple. It would, undoubtedly, be greatly to any one's advantage, the erecting improved gins and presses. I merely throw this out as a suggestion, as the following is the very primitive way in which cotton is pressed in Khandeish: four stout poles, about eight feet long, are firmly driven into the ground, forming a two feet square. To the top of each pole the corner of a large gunny bag is firmly tied, the cotton thrown in, and a man stamps it down, which concludes the process.

14. This year being the "Shiwust," during which no Hindoo marriages are allowed to take place, except for some days in the month of February, at which time the Mhyjee fair is in its most flourishing condition, an immense number of people keep away who otherwise would have attended. This in itself would account for the decrease in mercantile transactions for the present year; but the partial failure of all crops impoverishing the ryots, and rendering them unable to lay out any savings in the purchase of gold and silver ornaments, as is their custom; added to the reason above adduced, tends, I hope, to prove that this last Mhyjee fair has, however, been a satisfactory one.

15. The total (registered) amount of mercantile transactions for the two months during which the fair lasted, is Rupees 31,89,326, and referring to the corresponding "Shiwust" year, I find there is an increase this year of nearly £70,000 (seven lakhs of rupees), and I must here remark that in 1849 (Shiwust 1771) the season was an unusually good one.

16. The amount of crime has been insignificant, only five cases of petty robbery having occurred, and in each case the perpetrators were at once apprehended, and the whole of the stolen property recovered and returned to the owners.

APPENDIX A.

Abstract of Transactions.

Groceries, Medicines, &c.	Rs.	5,95,815	0 0
Grains, &c.		29,504	0 0
Eatables, &c.		91,129	0 0
Miscellaneous Property		7,377	0 0
Jewellers' Bazar		2,34,372	0 0
Cloth Bazar		10,46,759	0 0
Metal Bazar		1,42,677	0 0
Cotton and Gunny Bags		1,48,892	0 0
Raw Silk		13,588	0 0
Hoondee Bazar		8,88,813	0 0
Grand Total..	Rs.	31,98,926	0 0
Deduct amount of goods unsold, as per Appendix B		9,600	0 0
Leaving Total of business done in the Fair.		31,89,326	0 0

(Signed) S. Bell, Lieutenant,
Acting 3rd in Command Khandeish Bheel Corps.

APPENDIX B.

List of Goods remaining Unsold at the termination of the Mhyjee Fair.

Cotton Cloth of Khandeish	Rs.	600	0 0
„ of Evela		1,500	0 0
„ of Ahmedabad		2,000	0 0
„ of Sholapore.....		1,000	0 0
„ of Boorhanpoor		3,100	0 0
Cotton Thread.....		1,400	0 0
Total....	Rs.	9,600	0 0

(Signed) S. BELL, Lieutenant,
Acting 3rd in Command Khandeish Bheel Corps.

Extract Paras. 1 *to* 3 *of the Government Resolution.*

1. The report on the Mhyjee fair for the year 1861 shows a falling off of Rupees 15,80,442-4-0 in the return of business transacted, compared with the year previous. Lieutenant Stanley Bell attributes this decrease partly to the comparatively unsuccessful agricultural operations of the year, which rendered the ryots unable to lay out money; but principally to the fact that the present is a "Shiwust" year, and that a large portion of the Hindoo population was engaged in the celebration of marriages at the time the fair was going on. Mr. Bell points out that the transactions of the present year show an increase of nearly seven lakhs over those in the last "Shiwust" year (A.D. 1849), in which the season was an unusually good one.

2. It is very satisfactory to observe that no epidemic appeared, and that the only crimes reported were five petty robberies, the perpetraters of which were at once apprehended, the stolen property being recovered in each case and restored to the owners.

3. The gabion bridge across the Girna is still successful, and its utility has been increased this year by its having been connected, at a trifling expense, with two of the principal streets of the fair. Government observe also, that the

bridge was not at once removed on the conclusion of the fair, as has usually been the case, but that it was allowed to remain to assist the traffic between Berar and Malligaum, and was to be taken down at the commencement of the monsoon.

(True extract)

(Signed) A. KINLOCH FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 1043 OF 1861.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

From H. L. ANDERSON, Esq.,
Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay,

To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR,—I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to forward, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, copy of a letter, with accompaniment, from the Political Agent in the Mahee Kanta, dated the 21st February last, No. $\frac{116}{14}$, reporting upon the last Samlajee fair, held between the 26th November and 8th December 1860.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. L. ANDERSON,
Chief Secretary.

Bombay Castle, 12th March 1860.

No. 116 OF 1861.—Cons. No. 14.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

From Major WHITELOCK,
Political Agent in the Mahee Kanta,

To H. L. ANDERSON, Esq.,
Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

SIR,—I have the honor to report upon the last Samlajee fair, which was held between the 26th November and 8th December 1860.

2. The following table exhibits the amount of goods offered, sold, and undisposed of at the fairs held during the

two years preceding, and the two years succeeding, the disturbances consequent on the mutinies:—

Years.	Value of Goods brought to the Fair.	Value of Goods sold.	Value of Goods unsold.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1855.....	10,26,855	8,07,755	2,19,100
1856.....	9,93,151	9,08,641	84,510
1859.....	7,95,700	7,02,700	93,000
1860.....	8,86,604	7,24,664	1,61,940

3. The table inserted below shows the value of goods of British or Home manufacture, brought and sold at the Samlajee fair for the same years:—

Years.	Value of Cloths of Home Manufacture brought.	Value sold.
	Rs.	Rs.
1855.....	15,000	12,000
1856.....	35,000	35,000
1859.....	40,000	36,000
1860.....	40,000	25,000

	Brought.	Sold.
	Rs.	Rs.
The cloths of Home manufacture, such as Maderpauts, Jacconets, Chintzes, &c. amounted to	40,000	25,000
Silks, chiefly manufactured at Ahmedabad	90,000	81,025
Cloths from Khandeish	10,000	8,000
Coarse Cloths from Dhollera, Kuppurwunj, Ahmedabad, Broach, &c. ..	32,000	22,000
Cloths from Malwa, Meywar, Jeypoor, &c.	95,000	84,025
Total..Rs.	2,67,000	2,20,050

4. Taking into consideration the general ignorance prevailing over India regarding the important financial measures introduced last year; the high prices and scarcity of food generally, and especially in Rajpootana and in the North-West Provinces; and the uneasiness* that appears to have existed in some parts of Guzerat, from the circumstance of cholera having broken out at the fair at Veerpoor in 1859, the results of the last fair may be viewed as favourable to its increasing prosperity.

5. In 1859 the value of the goods brought to the Samlajee fair amounted to Rs. 7,95,700, and that of the goods remaining unsold to Rs. 93,000; and in the year under report Rs. 8,86,604 and Rs. 1,61,940 respectively; and a comparison of the returns in detail for those years show, moreover, that whilst the sum total is greatly in favour of the fair held in the last year, there was a diminution in 1860 in the item of opium to the extent of Rs. 1,15,000, so that upon the other articles of trade there was an actual increase in the year under report of Rs. 1,95,904 over the preceding one.

6. It will be gratifying to His Excellency the Governor in Council to learn that the Maharajah of Edur attended the fair, with the view of affording assurances and encouragement to the merchants and traders, and of facilitating their transactions, as well as for the purpose of superintending the police arrangements.

7. As the Brigadier General Commanding the Northern Division of the Army could not spare any Native Infantry for the protection of the last fair, owing to the absence of large detachments in Kattywar, and in the Rewa Kanta, a detachment of 80 sabres of the Guzerat Irregular Horse, under the command of Lieutenant Pym, and 200 horsemen of His Highness the Guicowar's Contingent, under Karkoon Appa Munohur, were sent to maintain order at Samlajee, and to patrol the roads leading to it for several miles during the continuance of the fair; and from the enclosed copy of a

* The Magistrate of Kaira expressed himself on the 20th September 1860 as follows, in consequence of cholera existing in some of the villages under his charge:—"If, however, it be determined that the fair is to be held in November and December next, I shall consider it necessary to warn the people against going to Samlajee, which I think would be preferable to inviting them to go there."

report from Lieutenant Pym, bearing date the 7th December last, it will be seen that the arrangements carried out under the able superintendence of that officer, and of my Dufterdar, Heeralal Balcrustna (who had been deputed to the fair in the absence of my Acting Assistant, Captain Law, on privilege leave), were very satisfactory, and most creditable to those officers, and to those serving under them, including the horsemen of the contingent.

8. I have much pleasure in adding that not a single case of cholera occurred at the fair.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) C. R. WHITELOCK,
Political Agent.

Mahee Kanta Agency Office,
Camp at Sachodur, 21st February 1861.

From Lieutenant PYM,
Late Commanding Detachment Guzerat Horse,
on duty, Samlajee Fair,

To the POLITICAL AGENT,
Mahee Kanta, Sadra.

SIR,—I have the honor to report, for your information, that, in accordance with the directions contained in your letter No. 689 of 1860, I arrived at Samlajee with the detachment under my command (80 sabres Guzerat Irregular Horse), on the 25th ultimo.

Your Dufterdar, Mr. Heeralal Balcrustna, having arrived in the evening of the same day, on the 26th all the arrangements were concluded for the preservation of the peace, prevention of crime, and good order during the fair.

The detachment of His Highness the Guicowar's Horse patrolled the roads incessantly, and were successful in apprehending the Bheels who committed the petty robberies in two out of the only three instances which occurred during the continuance of the fair.

The third robbery occurred outside the pendals. The Banyans had all been cautioned to carefully store away their goods at nightfall; but in this instance a package of opium was left out unguarded, and very naturally was missing in the morning.

A Lance Duffedar of the detachment under my command was attacked in a most unwarrantable manner by one of the sepoys of His Highness the Maharajah of Edur's Sebundee. In accordance with your directions, the man was handed over to the Maharajah for punishment, who fined him heavily, and imprisoned him for a period of two months.

There were, probably, at one time from a lakh to a lakh and a half of persons present, and from ten to twelve lakhs of rupees changed hands.

In conclusion, I trust I may be allowed to testify to the great assistance I have received during the whole time from Mr. Heeralal Balcrustna, and to the zeal, activity, and intelligence displayed by him in no common degree, and worthy, I consider, of your highest commendation. The almost total absence of crime in so wild a country, and with such an assemblage of all castes and tribes, was owing in a great measure to the admirable arrangements made by Mr. Heeralal.

The Thanadar of the detachment Guicowar Horse was also most active, and called forth my approbation.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) J. A. PYM, Lieut.,
Commanding Detachment Guzerat Irregular Horse,
on duty, Samlajee Fair.

Camp Tinotee, 7th December 1860.

(True copy)

(Signed) C. R. WHITELOCK,
Political Agent.

(True copies)

(Signed) H. L. ANDERSON,
Chief Secretary.

APPENDIX K.

BREACH OF CONTRACT BILLS.

No 102 of 1861.

To M. J. Shaw Stewart, Esq.,
Under-Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
Bombay.

Sir,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 2270, dated 11th May 1861, and have now to hand you copy of report and resolutions of the Chamber, relating to the bills of Mr. Beadon and Mr. Sconce upon the subject of contracts.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. Brooke,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 28th May 1861.

Report.

The Committee appointed at the General Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on the 23rd instant, to consider and report on the Bills, brought forward by Mr. Beadon and Mr. Sconce, for the better enforcement of contracts, have very carefully considered the minutes of the Members, and having collected all the information which they were able to command, beg to report as follows:—

1. An Act to punish summarily, whether by the civil

or criminal process, breaches of contract, especially with regard to the cultivation and delivery of agricultural produce, has long been urgently required, but it probably never was so much so as at the present moment.

2. Without some such Act, it is hopeless to expect the introduction, on any extensive scale, of European capital into the Mofussil (as far, at least, as this side of India is concerned); and without this, it appears hopeless to expect any amelioration in the position of the Ryots, or any marked improvement in the quality of the products of the country.

3. The subject is a momentous one as affecting all India, but it is one of special importance at this moment as regards the Bombay Presidency, affecting, as it does, in so great a degree, the increase in the cultivation, and the improvement in the quality, of our great staple article of export.

4. The Bills introduced by Mr. Beadon and Mr. Sconce both aim at the same result; but Mr. Beadon would reach this by the sharp decisive action of a criminal law, while Mr. Sconce would only use the more tedious, and, as the Committee think, the comparatively ineffectual, procedure of the Civil Courts.

5. The Committee are unanimously of opinion that Mr. Beadon's Act, with some modifications, is, as regards contracts of a small amount, the best calculated to effect the object in view; they believe that it would tend greatly to afford to the European capitalist that security without which he could not with any confidence enter upon business in the interior, while it would not in practice be so oppressive to the Ryot as the present comparatively tedious and much abused civil procedure.

6. At first sight, it may not appear just to punish criminally such breaches of contract, and this objection has been dwelt upon in the Legislative Council; but the expediency of such legislation has been admitted, even in the civilised society of England, and a very slight consideration of the circumstances will serve to convince of its necessity here.

7. The case was well put by Sir Bartle Frere when he said, "Not that the English law treated the poor man in one way, and the rich in another; but simply because, where the amount at stake was small, where there was no time for litigation, and where the party charged was likely to have the means

of paying damages, a somewhat shorter, rougher, and readier means of deciding the case was provided through the Magistrate's Court, instead of referring the case to the Civil Judge." The arguments of Sir Barnes Peacock on this point, but which it is unnecessary to quote at length here, also appear to the Committee very conclusive.

8. The Committee do not consider it necessary to state here at any length their convictions on this subject, as it is clear, from the recorded minutes, that these are concurred in by the Members of the Chamber generally. They may, in passing, however, point to one fact only, that in a Legislative Council, composed for the most part of men who know India and its requirements well, seven out of nine Members are found to affirm the necessity of a Bill such as that brought forward by Mr. Beadon.

9. While thus generally approving of the measure, the Committee do not consider it faultless; indeed, they believe that it might be greatly improved, by the importation from Mr. Sconce's Bill of some wise and necessary provisions, which Mr. Beadom has apparently overlooked.

10. The system of advancing on growing crops appears to be almost universal throughout India—in most parts it is an absolute necessity; and it is evident, that in order to enable the capitalist to follow it with any degree of security, something more is necessary than the mere power to punish criminally the defaulting Ryot—an unsatisfactory result when, as is the case in a great part of this Presidency at any rate, the Ryot is hopelessly insolvent, and the advance therefore hopelessly lost.

11. A law, whereby the advancer shall acquire an absolute lien to the extent of his advances on the crop upon which the advance has been made, is necessary; such crop must be pledged as special security for such advance, and must not be liable for the general debts of the Ryot. With some slight modifications, Section VII. of Mr. Sconce's Act appears to meet the requirements of the case.

12. Further, however, it appears necessary that there should be some system of registering such contracts. This also has been cared for by Mr. Sconce; but the process recommended by him appears to the Committee to be far too cumbrous for such comparatively petty contracts with Ryots as those to which the principle of Mr. Beadon's Bill

should, in their opinion, alone apply. Whatever may be the amount involved in the contract, simplicity of registration is desirable, but is specially so when the amount is small.

13. The Committee have not that accurate information with regard to the system which prevails in the other Presidencies, which would enable them to recommend a scheme of registration universally applicable; they have, however, considered the matter with special reference to their own Presidency, and they would offer one or two suggestions, calculated, they think, to meet the exigencies of the case.

14. The Registrar must be at the door, so to speak, of the Ryot, and the form of registration must be as simple as possible. Throughout the greater part of the Presidency, where the village system prevails, the Koolkurnee (village writer), or similar official, keeps, the Committee believe, for revenue purposes, a record of the quantity of land in cultivation by each Ryot, showing the appropriation of each description of crop, and probable outturn.

15. On this, or a similar record, the Committee suggest that advances should be registered, that the entry should be made by the said village official, signed (or marked) by the two contracting parties, and countersigned by the Mamlutdar of the Talooka, in whose presence all such registrations should be made;—this method would, the Committee believe, prove in practice as effectual as it is simple.

16. There would be little difficulty in having the Mamlutdar (or similar official) present, for all such contracts are, as a rule, made in each district about the same time, and the Mamlutdar might easily time his visit so as to meet the convenience of all parties.

17. As a matter of fact, the system, so far as the Mamlutdar's presence is concerned, was pursued in this Presidency in the only case in which Europeans attempted on an extensive scale to transact business direct with the Ryots; and it was not productive, so far as the Committee can ascertain, of any inconvenience, either to Government, or to the other parties interested.

18. Registration, such as that proposed, would be evidence of the contract, and it might be held to constitute a mortgage in so far as the particular crop advanced upon is concerned. Any tampering with this official record should be most severely punished.

19. It does not appear desirable to render the registration of contracts obligatory; it would be sufficient that a registered contract should be held to override all others, and that the Magistrate should, in carrying out a summary criminal act, recognise none other. An unregistered contract might still be sued upon in the usual Civil Court.

20. The Committee fear that any attempt to enforce the Stamp Act in its present form as regards such contracts would be very inconvenient; but in registration such as that which they propose, a fee in lieu of stamp duty might easily and with certainty be levied. The registration fee or stamp duty should in every case be paid by the advancer. The Stamp Act might be rigidly enforced as regards unregistered contracts.

21. The Committee believe that a system such as they propose would work well in this Presidency; it might probably be found to be inapplicable to some parts of India, but the suggestions made may nevertheless prove valuable in framing a general enactment.

22. The Committee would suggest the withdrawal of Clause VIII. of Mr. Beadon's Act.

23. No one who has had any experience of Mofussil business can doubt the necessity for some such provisions as that contained in Section V. of Mr. Beadon's Bill, namely, that whoever, by intimidation or otherwise, shall abet the breaking of a contract, shall be punished criminally. This point has been well insisted on also by Mr. Sconce in the 3rd paragraph of his speech introducing the Bill.

24. The provisions contained in Clause VI. of Mr. Beadon's Bill, that the Act shall not be retrospective in its operation, or applicable unless in cases wherein complaint is preferred within three months of the happening of the alleged breach of contract, appear to the Committee just. The restriction that no complaint shall be received under the Act "for the breach of any contract for a longer term than one year," is also necessary, providing that the advancer does not lose his subsequent redress by civil action for the undelivered portion of the contract.

25. The range within which it is proposed to confine the action of Mr. Beadon's Bill, whether taken as in Clause VI., viz. to apply to contracts for produce of the value of not over Rs. 50, or extended to Rs. 100, as suggested by the

Indigo Planters' Association, would render the measure almost inoperative as regards cotton contracts with the Ryot on this side of India. Contracts of this nature throughout Guzerat and the Deccan are usually for quantities of the value of Rs. 50 to Rs. 200 or Rs. 300, and frequently much more; and the Committee would recommend that Mr. Beadon's Bill be made applicable to contracts for produce of the value of not exceeding Rs. 250.

26. The wording of Clause VI. requires attention. It limits the action of the Bill to contracts for the cultivation, production, gathering, possession, manufacture, carriage, or delivery of produce, valued at not more than Rs. 50; that is, taken literally, if the produce were worth Rs. 75, the contract entered into for gathering or carrying it, and which might involve a charge of a few rupees only, would not come within the reach of the Act. A single raw bale of Dhollera cotton is at present worth Rs. 100, a fact which shows how desirable it is that the wording of the Act should be altered; and there seems to be no reason why the limit above named —Rs. 250—should not be made the value of the contract, whether that contract be to cultivate, produce, gather, provide, manufacture, carry, or deliver produce.

27. Whilst Mr. Beadon's Bill would be of great value in its action on small contracts which were accompanied with advances for the cultivation of the produce, and particularly for the gathering and carrying of it, the Bill brought forward by Mr. Sconce would do much to secure the due fulfilment of larger contracts. The system of registration to be adopted under it might be modified to that recommended above.

28. The other provisions of Mr. Sconce's Bill seem to be well arranged, and to call for no special remark: they cannot, however, be carried into effect during the existence of the present most tardy and ineffectual mode of procedure in the Mofussil Courts, with their endless appeals. It appears to the Committee that Small Cause Courts, with jurisdiction in action for sums to the extent of say Rs. 1,000, would do much to meet the requirements of the case; and this is a subject which the Committee would earnestly recommend the Chamber to press upon the consideration of Government.

29. Before real benefit can be derived from improved

Civil Courts, measures must be devised to relieve cultivators from the hopeless state of indebtedness in which, so far as regards some districts of the Presidency, they are now plunged, and which the customs of the country render hereditary. The position of dependence thus necessitated must keep low the moral tone of the people; and for any good to be done, the Committee regard as essential an Act to enable Insolvent Debtors to obtain relief.

30. These suggestions the Committee have felt themselves called upon to offer; and as another, and one of the most powerful influences that can be brought to the work of improving and elevating the position of the people of India, the Committee need hardly name the pushing forward of Railways, and other facilities of communication, the urgent necessity of which they feel sure the Chamber will lose no opportunity of pressing on the notice of Government.

(Signed) M. H. SCOTT.
,, GEORGE LORD.
,, J. N. FLEMING.

Bombay, 28*th May* 1861.

APPENDIX L.

CUSTOMS DUTIES.

No. 132 of 1861.

To A. D. Robertson, Esq.,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

Sir,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to hand you, enclosed, a letter from the Chairman of the Chamber to the Chief Secretary to the Supreme Government, pointing out the injurious effect of a continuance of the present high import duties on piece goods upon the commercial interests of India, as well as upon the development of the resources of the country generally.

The Committee trusts that His Excellency the Governor in Council, in forwarding the enclosed letter to the Government of India, will give to the object sought, such support as it may seem to deserve.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. Brooke,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 10*th July* 1861.

To W. Grey, Esq.,
Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department.

Sir,—I am desired by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce to request the honor of your laying before the Right Honor-

able the Governor General in Council the earnest appeal of its members for a mitigation of the oppressive rates of duty now levied on manufactured goods imported into India.

2. The Chamber is aware that, in doubling the scale of import duties on the 14th of March 1859, the object of Government was to provide temporarily for a sudden and alarming deficit in the revenue, and is persuaded that there was no desire on the part of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council to depart from the policy of abolishing all duties of a protective nature, which England has for many years been pursuing so unflinchingly and with such success.

3. It is, nevertheless, beyond doubt, that the maintenance of so high an import duty on manufactured goods as 10 per cent. is fast tending to diminish the consumption of British fabrics, and giving an artificial stimulus to Native production. In support of this statement, it may be mentioned, that about twelve months ago Joint Stock Companies, with capitals aggregating Rs. 68,00,000, were set on foot for the building, in this neighbourhood, of Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills; and even at this time additional sums are being subscribed for similar investments. It is worthy of note, too, that in late extensions of these undertakings, attention has been turned to the increasing of grey piece goods, rather than of twist or yarn, producing machinery.

4. If imported manufactures, after bearing the expenses of freight and other heavy charges, can successfully compete with the productions, whether by machinery or hand, of the country, they should not, the Chamber respectfully submits, be prevented doing so, by being subjected to a restrictive duty of 10 per cent.

5. Labour and capital in India, it will be admitted, can, with the best result, be employed in increasing the productiveness of the soil, in the cultivation of cotton, seeds, grain, and other produce; and if proof were needed that it is not for the benefit of the Natives of this country (under the stimulus afforded by high import duties) to be employed in the manufacture of goods, such would be found in the excellent report on the trade of the North-West Provinces, handed to the Government of India on the 8th May last by Colonel Baird Smith, in which he says (paragraph 31),—"Among the sufferers, none are more commonly met with, or

more helplessly prostrated, than the great body of the Native weavers."

6. The Chamber would respectfully point out, that in maintaining the existing high rate of duties, the present small increase to the revenue is most surely gained at the sacrifice of that trade whose rapid and steady expansion, if unchecked by heavy imports, would in a short time enable it, at a low rate of dues, to yield to the customs a largely increased sum yearly.

7. There cannot be a question, that the increased cost to the consumer of imported goods, consequent on the enhanced duties, has in some measure assisted in bringing about the great falling off in their consumption throughout India, and the present extreme depression in this branch of trade. On this point, all experience proves the correctness of Colonel Baird Smith's closing remarks, when, in paragraph 33 of the report above referred to, he forcibly calls attention to the stimulating effect on the consumption of goods by the people of this country produced by low prices, and states that a relief "from the pressure of customs duties greater than are required for revenue only will assuredly be followed by a permanent addition to the present consumers, which, while benefitting the trade, will amply compensate the public revenue for the sacrifice made."

8. In conclusion, the Chamber would express a fervent hope that the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council will grant an early and favourable consideration of this most important question, and reduce the import duties to the rates at which they stood prior to the 14th March 1859, say 3½ per cent. on twist and 5 per cent. on manufactured goods.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) G. LORD,
Chairman.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 8th July 1861.

No. 1117 of 1861.

From E. L. Jenkins, Esq.,
Acting Commissioner of Customs, Bombay,

To H. Brooke, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

Sir,—With reference to the application which was made by the Chamber of Commerce to the Government of India, dated the 8th July last, for the reduction of duty on piece goods and twist, I have now the honor to send, for your inspection, some figured statements (to be returned) which I have caused to be prepared, to enable me to answer a reference from the Bombay Government in the matter.

2. You will perceive that the increase of the rate of duty has not as yet affected the importation of piece goods, as far as can be seen from the statements above alluded to. And the importation of twist appears always to have been liable to fluctuate to a considerable extent.

3. I shall, therefore, be much obliged if you will inform me whether the application of the Chamber of Commerce was made from any particular data in respect to the present state of the trade, and favour me with any further explanation or remarks that the Chamber of Commerce may wish to offer, before I submit a report to Government in the matter. —I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) E. L. Jenkins,
Acting Commissioner of Customs.

Bombay Custom House, 16*th August* 1861.

Duty on Piece Goods at 5 per cent

1858-59.	Grey Piece Goods.		Bleached Piece Goods.	
	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.
Quarter, ending 31st July .	8,25,901	23,43,971	2,63,841	10,12,636
d do. 31st Oct..	19,86,157	56,27,192	8,48,490	23,41,211
d do. 31st Jan ..	10,73,886	30,80,871	5,27,131	19,97,540
h do. 30th April.	17,64,020	47,02,419	9,69,946	19,66,834
	56,49,964	1,57,54,453	27,09,408	73,18,221

Duty on Piece Goods at 10 per cent

1859-60.	Grey Piece Goods.		Bleached Piece Goods.	
	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.
Quarter, ending 31st July .	15,44,814	45,79,086	4,32,039	10,59,872
d do. 31st Oct..	17,38,358	52,49,725	6,56,547	14,80,967
d do. 31st Jan..	12,10,524	40,32,407	2,34,502	5,85,859
h do. 30th April.	25,52,676	69,46,439	8,47,545	24,61,674
	70,46,372	2,08,07,657	21,70,633	55,88,372

nd on Twist and Yarn at 3½ per cent.

Coloured Piece Goods.		Miscellaneous Piece Goods.		Twist and Yarn.	
Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	lb.	Value.
3,15,062	8,76,437	4,862	45,370		
9,51,930	26,33,793	9,622	88,483	81,34,220	38,69,810
6,81,016	19,93,738	7,940	52,786		
5,65,045	19,73,457	15,503	95,963		
25,13,053	74,77,425	37,927	2,82,602	81,34,220	38,69,810

nd on Twist and Yarn at 5 and 10 per cent.

Coloured Piece Goods.		Miscellaneous Piece Goods.		Twist and Yarn.	
Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	lb.	Value.
2,06,419	6,49,791	44,347	2,16,883		
5,10,452	16,08,328	64,758	2,73,663		
2,99,397	8,86,169	50,430	2,01,834	1,23,58,009	57,35,993
8,04,175	23,42,402	49,065	2,23,064		
8,20,443	54,86,690	2,08,600	9,15,444	1,23,58,009	57,35,993

Duty on Piece Goods at 10 *per cen*

1860-61.	Grey Piece Goods.		Bleached Piece Goods	
	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.
st Quarter, ending 31st July..	16,16,513	41,09,756	4,96,124	12,72,682
nd do. 31st Oct..	11,47,247	30,25,536	4,42,221	9,66,098
rd do. 31st Jan..	14,35,154	40,68,342	3,45,279	7,73,447
th do. 30th April.	26,50,175	81,45,664	9,90,713	26,80,283
	68,49,089	1,93,49,298	21,74,337	56,92,510

(Signed) MOROBA CR.,
Overseer of the Reporter General's Department.

Bombay, Reporter General's Office, 31*st July* 1861.

1856-57.

Grey and Bleached Piece Goods.		Coloured Piece Goods.		Miscellaneous Piece Goods.		Twist and Yarn.	
Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	lb.	Value.
3,23,999	1,35,21,115	7,41,628	23,16,052	6,770	68,813	46,70,870	22,02,95

(Signed) MOROBA CR.,
Overseer of the Reporter General's Department.

Bombay, Reporter General's Office, 31*st July* 1861.

nd Twist and Yarn at 10 *per cent.*

Coloured Piece Goods.		Miscellaneous Piece Goods.		Twist and Yarn.	
Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	lb.	Value.
5,99,349	15,94,129	9,243	56,624		
5,14,364	14,98,337	9,248	56,769		
7,00,096	17,62,531	9,648	54,903	55,98,855	29,11,202
2,95,377	31,23,933	8,783	72,327		
31,09,186	79,78,930	36,922	2,40,623	55,98,855	29,11,202

(Signed) M. B. VICCAJEE,
Assistant Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium.

1857-58.

Grey and Bleached Piece Goods.		Coloured Piece Goods.		Miscellaneous Piece Goods.		Twist and Yarn.	
Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	lb.	Value.
1,60,017	1,18,11,032	13,24,107	42,66,811	10,401	93,276	28,61,384	14,68,32

(Signed) M. B. VICCAJEE,
Assistant Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium.

No. 163 of 1861.

To E. L. Jenkins, Esq.,
Acting Commissioner of Customs, Bombay.

Sir,—Your letter No. 1117, of 16th instant, relating to the existing rates of duties on piece goods and yarns, has been laid before the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, on whose behalf I have been desired to reply.

2. The comparative statements of imports during the past few years, which accompany your letter, you remark, do not seem to indicate that "the increased rate of duty has as yet affected the importation of piece goods"; of twist, it is observed, "that the importation appears always to have been liable to fluctuate to a considerable extent."

3. In the Chamber's letter, of 8th ultimo, to Government on this subject, it is not attempted to show that the effects of the raising of the duties so recently as two years ago were already very clearly traceable in a diminished import. The decreased consumption, which it was held would result from the higher cost to the consumer, must first become apparent in the accumulation of stocks; these, in Bombay, are now larger than they were ever known before,—are, in fact, sufficient, with the shipments about due, to supply until next rains a consumption fully equal to that of last year; and most kinds of staple goods are selling at prices 10 to 15 per cent. below the laid down cost calculated at the latest quotations from England. The markets of Calcutta and Madras are equally over-supplied, and prices there are nearly as low; it may, therefore, be surely anticipated, that imports of piece goods to all India, instead of increasing, as in the natural expansion of trade they ought to do, will now immediately begin to show a very marked falling off.

4. That low prices tend to increase, high prices to diminish, consumption, as an invariable rule, is too well understood to need exemplification here; but this law, it may be remarked, acquires peculiar force where, as in India, Native manufactures so closely compete with imported goods. Accordingly, in the Bombay trade, we find that the continu-

ance for any lengthened period of a low range of prices in British fabrics has been attended by rapidly increased consumption.

5. Following is a statement of imports of plain cotton goods (made up from the Commissioner's Yearly Returns), together with a memorandum of the average prices of three staple kinds in Bombay; during the ten years 1st May 1851 to 30th April 1861.

Statement.

YEARS.	IMPORTS.		Average Prices during each period.		
	Pieces.	Rupees.	7lb. 40 in. Shirtings.	3lb. 32 in. Madapollams.	6lb. 32 in. T Cloths.
			Rs. as.	Rs. as.	Rs. as.
3 Years, 1851-54, yearly average..	42,28,340	1,34,56,186	4 3	1 14	3 4
3 Years, 1854-57, do. ..	51,56,900	1,50,55,446	3 12½	1 11½	2 12½
1 Year, 1857-58, do. ..	41,60,017	1,81,11,032	4 11	2 4	3 12
1 Year, 1858-59, do. ..	83,59,372	2,30,72,674	5 7	2 5	3 12
1 Year, 1859-60, do. ..	92,17,005	2,63,96,029	5 3	2 8	3 10
1 Year, 1860-61, do. ..	90,23,426	2,50,41,808	4 8	2 0	3 5

6. Imports, during the latter part of the first period, 1851-54, were greatly in excess of requirements, and left on hand very heavy supplies, which so depressed the market, that for the whole of the first two years of the second period, 1854-57, prices ruled lower than at any previous time—say, for the three descriptions above quoted, respectively Rs. 3-10, 1-10, and 2-11. These low rates, however, stimulated the consumption of British piece goods. The surplus stocks from 1851-54, as well as the increased imports of 1854-57, were readily taken off, and Bombay, and all the interior marts supplied therefrom, were literally bared. During the early part of the year 1857-58, shipments from the United Kingdom were held in check by the news of the mutinies, and the American and English monetary crises; but during 1858-59 and 1859-60 the imports were almost double those of the preceding years, and yet stocks in Bombay at the close of 1859-60 were light.

7. An extension of the trade in British goods is produced by low prices in two ways: by the lower cost to the consumer, enabling him to purchase an increased quantity; and by the cheap imported article superseding that of Native production. This latter effect, it is to be borne in mind, when looking at the figures in paragraph 5, is only brought about by a long continuance of low prices, and does not become visible in larger imports, until time has been allowed for the increased consumption to work off surplus stocks, and lead to the re-establishing in this market of such prices as will remunerate the importer.

8. In like manner, and as pointed out in paragraph 3, high prices check consumption gradually, but they do so most surely and in proportion to the length of time during which they are maintained; not only by artificially stimulating the production of Native hand made goods, but, as mentioned in the Chamber's letter of 8th July, by lately leading to the investment here of an extraordinary amount of capital in projected spinning and weaving mills, when competing with which, more particularly, the importer will find such heavy duties as are now levied on goods and twist almost prohibitive on such descriptions as are produced by the local mills. The largest of these concerns for producing cloth and yarn, it may be mentioned, has, since the Chamber

addressed Government on this subject, declared a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent.

9. The yearly import of twist, as remarked in your letter under reply, has been liable to fluctuate a good deal; but the great falling off during last year, shown in your statement, is in some measure to be attributed to the circumstance that a portion of the demand for the interior and local use is now being supplied by the productions of the Bombay spinning mills; and the apprehension that many other concerns will shortly be got to work further helps to keep shipments from England in check.

10. The lists of imports which accompanied your letter No. 1117 are returned herewith as requested.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) GEORGE LORD,
Chairman.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 31st August 1861.

SALTPETRE.

No. 342 OF 1861.

From RICHARD SPOONER, Esq.,
Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium,

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—I beg to forward copy of Government Resolution No. 1084, dated the 7th instant, on the subject noted in the margin.

Saltpetre,—Duty at the rate of Rupees 2 per Indian Maund.

2. And I solicit to be favored with an expression of the views and opinions of the Chamber of Commerce thereon.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) RICHARD SPOONER,
Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium.

Bombay, Office of Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium, 8th March 1861.

To GEORGE LORD, Esq.,
Chairman, Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—I have laid your letter of the 25th ultimo, together with the various documents sent therewith, before the Committee of this Chamber, and they beg to hand the following short report upon the trade of saltpetre from Sind, and the effect the present duty of Rs. 2 per maund has already had; and also their views of the effect which the artificial manufacture of saltpetre at home is likely to have upon it.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) DAN. MCIVER,
Chairman, Kurrachee Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber of Commerce, Kurrachee, 4th May 1861.

Report.

Throughout the provinces of Sind and the Punjaub, the country is impregnated with saltpetre earth. The manufacture of this article in former years was almost entirely carried on by Natives, who either sold it to Bombay merchants, or sent it on their own account to Bombay for sale. The value generally ruled from Rs. 7 to Rs. 8 per bag of 2 maunds for unrefined Sind, and Rs. 8 to Rs. 11 for Mooltan or Punjaub. This price did little more than cover the cost of production at the time, and when the duty was raised to its present rate, purchasers at Bombay being unable to obtain higher prices for the article at home, had to reduce the price they were in the habit of paying for the article. The effect this has had will be seen from the following figures taken from the Kurrachee Custom House Returns for the past two years, viz.—

Shipped to	1859-60.	1860-61.
	Cwt.	Cwt.
England	2,328	18,199
Bombay	99,301	13,912
Total..	101,629	32,111

When it is further taken into account that the export trade in almost every branch has greatly increased during the past season, and that a large amount of capital has been thrown into the place, the Committee of this Chamber think it must be at once apparent that some reason has existed for a decline of more than one-third of the amount of saltpetre exported during 1859-60, and they can come to no other conclusion than that the heavy export duty, which the article *in its unrefined state* is unable to bear, must have caused this. They further think, that a much greater falling off would have taken place, had it not been for the system in use here of engaging men for manufacturing saltpetre for a term of years, and making advances to them at the commencement, which are gradually worked off during the period of engagement. This prevents the manufacture from being abandoned at once.

Some time since, several European firms commenced to manufacture and *refine* saltpetre on the banks of the Indus, in the hope that, by improving the quality of the article, they should still be able to carry on a profitable trade. This they certainly would have been able to do, if they had had to contend only with manufacturers in other parts of India.

Mr. Wilson, when he imposed the present rate of duty, was under the impression that the East Indies were the only source from which the article could be obtained. Now it is not only imported from other countries, but it is largely manufactured artificially in France and England; and the Committee of this Chamber are of opinion, that it is clearly the duty of Government either to remove altogether the restrictions now imposed on the export of the article from this country, or at any rate to lessen these so as to leave a fair field open for competition.

To the Home Government, the Committee of this Chamber think it would be of the greatest importance not to allow the manufacture of the article in this country to drop, so that in the event of war they might not be dependent on any foreign country for its supply; and the Committee are further of opinion, that unless the export duty is entirely taken off, or greatly lowered, those now engaged in manufacturing saltpetre in Sind must, unless some unforeseen circumstances arise, carry on their works to a loss, which in

the course of a short time must cause their entire abandonment.

No. 94 of 1861.

To E. L. Jenkins, Esq.,
Acting Commissioner of Customs, Bombay.

Sir,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of No. 342 of 1861, dated 8th March, inquiring of the Chamber their opinion respecting the late enhancement of the duty on saltpetre.

In reply to their inquiries, the Committee have now to forward to you copy of a report on the subject, received from the Chamber of Commerce at Kurrachee; and after carefully considering the whole of the papers laid before them, the Committee can arrive at no other conclusion than that the increase of the duty is in the highest degree impolitic, and that if not speedily reduced to its former rate, the Indian trade in this important article will be greatly diminished, to the great detriment of commerce and industry in India, and to the advantage only of French and other rival manufacturers.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. Brooke,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 21st May 1861.

APPENDIX M.

COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATION.

To JOHN CASSELS, Esq., and
JOHN CAMPBELL, Esq.,
Delegates of the Commercial Association, Bombay.

DEAR SIRS,—On behalf of the members of the Chamber of Commerce, we beg to express to the members of the Bombay Commercial Association the concern with which the Chamber have heard that, owing to very incorrect reports of the proceedings of their meeting held on the 10th ultimo, the Association have been led to suppose that the Chamber approved of the expressions to which exception was taken by the retired members at the meeting which caused their resignation.

We beg to assure you that such was not the case.

The Chamber would further add, that the expressions of regret which fell from two gentlemen, in explanation, were received by the meeting with great pleasure, and with every hope that they would be considered satisfactory.

We trust that this communication may remove from the minds of the members of the Association all misunderstanding as to the sentiments of the Chamber, and we hope, for the sake of the general interests of the commerce of Bombay, in times which may be considered critical, that your colleagues will not decline our invitation to rejoin the Cham-

ber, with which many of them have been so long connected.

With the assurance of cordial good-will on the part of the Chamber,—We are, &c.,

(Signed) HENRY D. CARTWRIGHT,
„ GEORGE LORD,
Delegates of the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 9th May 1861.

To H. D. CARTWRIGHT, Esq., and
GEORGE LORD, Esq.,
Delegates of the Chamber of Commerce.

DEAR SIRS,—We have received your letter of yesterday, and in consequence of the explanations and assurances which you have given on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, we have the pleasure of informing you that the Commercial Association will be dissolved, with a view to its members resuming their membership of the Chamber, whose harmony we trust may never again be disturbed.

It is understood that this correspondence shall be recorded by the Chamber.—We remain, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN CASSELS,
„ JOHN CAMPBELL,
Delegates of the Commercial Association.

Bombay, 10th May 1861.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

DEAR SIR,—In consequence of the explanations given to our deputation by the delegates of the Chamber of Commerce, we beg that you will be good enough to cancel the

letters in which we resigned our membership.—We remain, &c.,

(Signed) RITCHIE, STEWART, and Co.
" ROBERT STRONG and Co.
" EWART, LATHAM, and Co.
" GREY and Co.
" CAMPBELL, MITCHELL, and Co.
" DADABHOY HORMUSJEE CAMA and Co.
" NASMYTH, MACDONALD, and Co.
" COMBER, SON, and Co.
" STEARNS, HOBART, and Co.
" PEEL, CASSELS, and Co.
" W. & A. GRAHAM and Co.
" S. BURSTALL and Co.

Bombay, 11*th May* 1861.

APPENDIX N.

PAPER CURRENCY.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

DEAR SIR,—We are not aware whether the Committee purpose taking any steps to remove the erroneous impression as to the general opinion of the Chamber with regard to the late Mr. Wilson's Paper Currency scheme, which the speech of Sir Bartle Frere in the Legislative Council, on 23rd ultimo, is calculated to convey.

The assertion that the opinions of the mercantile community of Bombay are, "on the whole, in a manner favourable to Mr. Wilson's views," has been made so publicly, and is so entirely opposed to fact, that we think it ought at once to receive from the Chamber a decided and public contradiction.

Should the Committee not feel called upon to move in the matter, we trust they will excuse our suggesting that the opinions of the members of the Chamber should be taken as to the course which ought to be pursued.

We should not have addressed you thus on the subject, did we not feel that *immediate* action is most desirable.—We are, &c.,

(Signed) RITCHIE, STEUART, and Co.
„ FINLAY, SCOTT, and Co.
„ WM. NICOL and Co.

Bombay, 10*th October* 1860.

No. 119 of 1860.

To Sir Bartle Frere, K.C.B., &c.,
Member of the Council of India, Calcutta.

Sir,—I am instructed by the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce to bring to your notice that the remarks made by you in the Legislative Council, when moving the second reading of the Paper Currency Bill on 22nd September, in reference to the written minutes of members of this Chamber on the subject of the late Mr. Wilson's currency measure, are calculated, in their opinion, to give rise to a misapprehension on the part of the public with regard to the views held by the majority of the Chamber as to the State Currency Scheme.

The Committee would, therefore, express a hope that you will take an early opportunity of removing this wrong impression, by stating in the Legislative Council, that the opinion of the majority of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce is hostile to the Bill as it at present stands, as is shown by the tenor of the resolutions passed by them in July last, and forwarded at their desire to the Supreme Government by the local Government of Bombay.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. Brooke,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 20th October 1860.

To H. Brooke, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

Sir,—I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 20th instant, No. 117, pointing out that my remarks on the second reading of the Currency Bill in the Legislative Council on the 22nd of September were calculated, in the opinion of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, to convey an erroneous impression as to the views held on the subject by a majority of the Chamber.

I beg you will express to the Chamber my thanks for the correction of what appeared to them a mistake into which I had fallen, and that you will assure them that any statement of fact or expression of opinion on the currency or any

other measure, in which the Chamber is interested, will be received by me with the attention and respect to which everything emanating from such a body is entitled.

But as regards the remarks to which your letter refers, I can only suppose that the Chamber judged from an imperfect report of what I stated. I enclose a copy of the official report, from which it will be seen that my remarks were confined to the minutes of individual members of the Chamber, and not to the resolution of the Chamber in its collective capacity.

It seemed to me, that the balance of argument in the various able minutes was most conclusively in favour of the measure; and though the Chamber, by a very small majority of votes, adopted the opposite view, I should have been well content, as far as argument went, to have rested the case for the bill on the minutes recorded by the minority.

There could have been no mistake as to the resolution of the Chamber, as every member who heard me had them in his hands printed copies both of the resolution and of the minutes to which I drew the attention of the Council.

Trusting that this explanation will satisfy the Chamber that I have not, even unintentionally, misrepresented their opinions on so important a subject,—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) H. B. E. FRERE.

Calcutta, October 29th, 1860.

APPENDIX O.

PORT FUNDS AND PILOTAGE.

No. 808 OF 1860.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

From Lieutenant Colonel W. F. MARRIOTT,
Acting Secretary to Government,

To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR,—I am desired to ask the favor of your opinion on the proposed arrangements for inquiry in case of alleged misconduct on the part of any pilot, as in the accompanying copy of a letter from Commodore Wellesley, No. 879, of 5th October.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) W. F. MARRIOTT, Lieut. Colonel,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Poona, 8th October 1860.

From the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy, to His Excellency the Honorable Sir GEORGE CLERK, *K.C.B., Governor and President in Council, No.* 879, *dated the 5th October* 1860.

HONORABLE SIR,—I do myself the honor to represent to your Excellency in Council, that no rules have as yet been laid down with regard to the entry, promotion, and discharge of pilots, nor as to the proceedings which should be taken in case of misconduct on their part, since they ceased, in

November last year, to form part of the Indian Naval Establishment.

2. Up to that period they were entered under the authority of Government, on the application of the Commander-in-Chief Indian Navy, as probationary pilots in the first instance, and at the expiration of a year in that capacity, and having passed an examination before officers of the Indian Navy to ascertain their thorough knowledge of the navigation of the harbour, they were promoted to be third class pilots, thence rising by seniority to the second and first class as vacancies occurred.

3. In regard to the entry of pilots, it seems to me only to be necessary to continue the former practice, and that on vacancies occurring the names of candidates, approved by the Commander-in-Chief Indian Navy, should be submitted by him for the sanction of Government, to be entered as probationary pilots, and that at the expiration of a year in that capacity they should be examined before a committee to be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief Indian Navy, and, if found qualified, be appointed as pilots.

4. On the occurrence of any accident or complaint, an investigation was formerly held by officers of the Indian Navy into the circumstances, and the case was dealt with by the Commander-in-Chief Indian Navy, who, when the offence in his opinion merited punishment such as reduction in rank or dismissal, forwarded the proceedings to Government for decision.

5. The pilotage establishment being now separated from the Indian Navy, it is not desirable that the tribunal of inquiry should be composed of officers from this service: while, at the same time, I think it is very important that there should be some means devised of obtaining a fair and impartial court for the investigation of complaints against the pilots.

6. For Bengal, an Act, No. XII. of 1859, was passed last year by the Legislative Council, amending the law for the trial of persons employed in the pilot service of that Presidency. It establishes a court for the trial of offences or neglect of duty on their part, which is to be composed of a judge, and jury composed of two merchants of Calcutta, a master of a merchant ship lying in the port of Calcutta, and a pilot of not less than 20 years' service.

7. In a small pilot service like that existing in Bombay, it is hardly necessary to frame any law on the subject; but it would be desirable to make some arrangement for the hearing of complaints, and for an impartial decision, on any cases which may require judicial inquiry.

8. I would suggest, therefore, that a court of inquiry, composed of one of the Magistrates of Police, as judge or president, with one merchant, one master of a merchant ship, and one of the Assistants to the Conservator of the Port, as a jury, should be called on to investigate all complaints laid against pilots; the president forwarding his opinion of the punishment (if any) to be inflicted to Government direct, or through the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy, as may be thought convenient.

9. I think such a measure would be satisfactory to the mercantile community, who are so deeply interested in the efficiency of the pilotage establishment. I have no doubt that the Chamber of Commerce would enter into an arrangement for deputing one of their members to attend whenever required, on intimation being given to the Secretary of the time of assembly of such a court. The Commissioner of Customs might also select a master of a merchant ship, the Conservator of the Port deputing one of his Assistants.

10. All complaints against pilots to be transmitted by the Conservator of the Port to the Commander-in-Chief Indian Navy, and if, in his opinion, considered deserving of further proceedings, to be forwarded by him to the Magistrate of Police, with a request that he will assemble a court of inquiry to take cognisance of the matter.

No. 25 OF 1861.

To Lieutenant Colonel W. F. MARRIOTT,
Acting Secretary to Government, Marine Dept.,
Bombay.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 808 of 1860, dated 8th October, referring to the Chamber of Commerce, for their opinion, the proposed arrangements for inquiry in case of alleged misconduct of any pilot.

In 1856, numerous communications took place between the Government and the Chamber of Commerce, on the subject of the Port and Pilot Regulations; and after Act No. XXXI. of 1857 had been some time in operation, the Committee gave their opinion as follows:—

"No. 102 of 1858.

"To H. Young, Esq.,
Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

"Sir,—Since the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce last communicated with Government relative to the necessity of improvement being made in the system of pilotage in Bombay Harbour, the Act XXII. of 1855, for the Regulation of Ports and Port Dues, has come into operation, and, under Act XXXI. of 1857, the levy of Port Dues on shipping commenced in January last.

"Both these Acts have an important bearing upon any proposal for the improvement of the harbour and pilotage arrangements. The Committee adopt them as the basis of their suggestions, and while strongly impressed with the necessity which exists for the introduction of a system which will meet the increasing demands of the trade of Bombay, they desire, in the alterations which they now propose for the consideration of Government, to keep within the scope and intentions of the law which is now in operation.

"The Act XXII. lays down a complete Code of Port Regulations. It appoints the Master Attendant to be Conservator of the Port, vests him with large powers, defines his duties, and places the Pilotage establishment under his control. It provides for the keeping of distinct accounts of the Port Fund, showing in detail the receipts and charges, and for their audit and publication annually; it provides also for payment of advances by Government, and of interest on the same, and orders that this fund is to be charged with all expenses, including the pay and allowances of all persons upon the port establishments, cost of buoys, beacons, lights, or other works, maintained for the benefit of shipping, but excluding pilotage receipts and expenses.

"Looking at the important position assigned to the Master Attendant by the new law, his various and onerous duties, and large powers, and the necessity which exists for impos-

ing on him a direct personal responsibility for their proper exercise, and for negligence or incompetence in his office, the Committee beg to submit that the first measure to be adopted is the reconstruction of the Master Attendant's establishment as a distinct department, and its complete separation from the Indian Navy and Government Dockyard.

"An examination of the present organisation of the Master Attendant's department will, the Committee conceive, show how necessary this is to make it efficient, and carry out the intentions of the Act. As at present constituted, it consists of—

"1st.—The Master Attendant, who is always a Senior Officer of the Indian Navy, the appointment lying in that service. He is selected, the Committee believe, rather with respect to rank than any special knowledge or fitness for the office. He is transferred or removed at the pleasure of the Naval Commander-in-Chief. He has no direct responsibility to the public, as all questions regarding the port are not referred to him, but to the Naval Commander-in-Chief, and incompetence or neglect of duty would, at worst, only lead to his removal from the appointment, but would not affect his position in the Indian Navy. The present Master Attendant, Captain J. W. Young, is an able and much esteemed officer, but he is also Assistant Superintendent of the Indian Navy, an appointment which, the Committee are of opinion, is altogether incompatible with the due performance of his duties to the mercantile and shipping interest.

"2nd.—Three Assistants, whose appointments lie in the patronage of the Naval Commander-in-Chief, and who have generally served in the Indian Navy.

"3rd.—The Pilotage establishment.

"4th.—The Dockyard Boatswain and Sail-maker.

"The whole department is attached to the Dockyard, has Dockyard duties to perform, and is under the sole and irresponsible control of the Naval authorities.

"It is easy to trace how the Master Attendant's department has fallen into this position; and as long as the expenses of the port were chargeable against the general revenue, and its functions were performed with tolerable efficiency, the mercantile community had no special interest in inquiring into the amount of its expenses, or the nature of its constitution; but the new law has changed all this.

"The whole expenses of the Master Attendant's department—lights, buoys, &c.—now fall upon the shipping. It is respectfully submitted that the shipowners and merchants have a right to expect that no portion of a fund collected for these objects shall be applied to other purposes, or contribute towards the expenses of another and entirely distinct Government establishment. Whilst the Master Attendant's department is constituted as at present, it appears to the Committee that it will be difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish in the expenditure what should properly be chargeable to the Indian Navy, and what to the mercantile shipping,—that no check can be kept over the expenditure and application of the fund,—that the direct and sole responsibility of the Master Attendant, as contemplated by the law, cannot be enforced,—and that the usefulness of his establishment will be seriously impaired. The Committee therefore submit,—

"That Government, under Sect. VI., should appoint a Harbour Board or Commission, say of five persons—1st, The Collector or Commissioner of Customs, as under Sect. XLV. he is appointed to receive the port dues, and from his position is in daily communication with the merchants of Bombay. 2nd and 3rd, two members possessing good practical knowledge of marine matters, it appears to the Chamber, should be chosen. 4th, Lloyd's Agent in Bombay. 5th, a member to be chosen as a representative of the mercantile community. The appointment of Master Attendant should either be thrown open to competition, or, if given to an officer of the Indian Navy, it should be on the distinct understanding that he will be responsible only to Government and the Harbour Commission, be under no other control, and be unable to hold any other appointment. When these preliminary measures are carried out, the Committee see little difficulty in placing this department on an efficient basis. The Commission, acting along with the Master Attendant, would determine what office staff and assistants were necessary, and from the ample provisions of the Act, it would be easy to compile a complete Code of Bye-laws and Regulations for the port, alterations in which can be made from time to time, as they are found necessary.

"It might be advisable that the Master Attendant should be Marine Magistrate, as he is at Madras, Point de Galle,

and other ports; and when the new Mercantile Marine Act for India, now before the Legislative Council, comes into operation, the Shipping Master's department might advantageously be incorporated with that of the Master Attendant. These arrangements, however, can stand over for future consideration.

"LIGHTS.—As, under the new law, the expense of all lights, buoys, &c., falls upon the Port Fund, and as the Committee conclude that Government will charge it with the estimated value of the present light vessels, buoys, &c., and the cost of their maintenance, they consider it will be as well to ascertain, by at least one year's experience, what the income and expenses are likely to amount to, before suggesting any alteration in the present system.

"PILOTAGE.—The Chamber observe that a separate account is to be kept of the receipts and expenses of the Pilotage establishment, and conclude that it will remain under the responsible control and management of the Master Attendant; an arrangement which will render necessary its complete severance from the Government Dockyard, and which will be the first step towards placing it on an efficient footing.

"With every wish to see a system of free pilotage introduced, such as exists on the coast of England, and which would give a stimulus to individual exertion, the Committee see several difficulties in the way, and consider it will be better to continue for the present a fixed scale of pay, as under the existing system; but they would suggest that, as vacancies occur, they should be thrown open to public competition; that if the funds admit, the pay and allowance should be increased, and a sum set apart for a sick and superannuation fund. If this were done, the Committee believe that, in the present depressed state of the shipping interests, many shipmasters, holding first class Board of Trade certificates, would be found among the applicants for employment. The Committee are inclined to conclude, from the opinions of parties competent to judge, that the present description of pilot-boats is well adapted for use in this harbour during the fair weather monsoon, and that what is wanted is an increase in the number of men (actually doing duty as pilots) and boats. Even this may not be necessary if a proper system of working is introduced, and encourage-

ment given to diligence on the part of the pilots, the men being kept to their own proper duties, and not being liable to be detached for service in any other department.

"For the three months during which the S. W. monsoon prevails, the Committee consider that it would be best to revert to the old plan—that is, to have a pilot brig, of about 200 tons, anchored well out, and that this vessel should beat out of the harbour every morning at daybreak, to lead in any ship making the port, or, if the weather permitted it, to place a pilot on board, returning to the anchorage at night-fall. This pilot vessel to be commanded by one of the senior pilots, with two or three assistant pilots, and a Native crew, and to be paid off, stripped, and laid up in ordinary from the end of August, and throughout the N. E. monsoon. There are other details to which the Committee have not alluded, but they desire to have some experience of the working of the law, and to know the amount of the port and pilotage revenue and expenses before extending their suggestions. They trust, however, that the Government will see the necessity of severing the connection of the Master Attendant's department with the Indian Navy and Dockyard, as, until this takes place, the new law will remain a dead letter, and the commercial and shipping interests of this port will continue to suffer from its inefficiency.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) "J. A. CROWE,
"Acting Secretary.

"*Bombay, Chamber of Commerce, 24th September* 1858."

The Government expressed their views in the following Resolution:—

"No. 2487 OF 1859.

"REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

"To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
"Bombay.

"SIR,—With reference to the communications marginally noted, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, the accompanying copy of a

Letter from Mr. Crowe, No. 102, dated 24th September 1858.
Letter from Mr. Mawson, No. 39, dated 15th April 1859.

Resolution which has been passed by Government on the subject of the harbour and pilotage arrangements at Bombay.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) "B. H. ELLIS,
"Acting Secretary to Government.

"*Bombay Castle, 28th June* 1859.

"*Resolution passed by Government on 28th June* 1859.

"In the first suggestion for the appointment of a Harbour Board, Government cannot concur; all experience shows that in India, if not elsewhere, a Board is the worst machinery that can be devised for the management of executive details. These will be left to the Master Attendant, who will be responsible to his immediate superiors for the proper execution of his duty.

"2. The Chamber may be informed that the question of disconnecting the Dockyard duties of the Master Attendant from those which relate to the interests of the mercantile shipping had, for some time past, been under consideration, and Government have now passed a Resolution, finally deciding on the immediate disseverance of the duties, and requesting the Commander-in-Chief Indian Navy, and Commissioner of Customs, to submit the details regarding salaries and establishments required, to give full effect to this decision.

"3. The duties of the Master Attendant will, in future, be wholly disconnected from those of the Dockyard or of any other appointment, and the pilot establishment will be under his responsible control and management.

"4. The Master Attendant will be under the control of the Commissioner of Customs in respect to all matters relating to port dues, collections, and revenue matters, while, in regard to nautical and marine questions connected with the port, he will be under the control of the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy. The Master Attendant will not, however, be considered as belonging in any way to the Indian Navy, though his proceedings will be supervised by the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy, who is the officer best qualified to decide all naval questions. When the matter for decision partakes of both a revenue and marine

character, the Commissioner of Customs and Commander-in-Chief will decide it in consultation and concert with one another.

"5. It is suggested that the Master Attendant be a Marine Magistrate. It may probably be found useful to vest the Master Attendant with such powers for occasional emergencies, but it does not appear desirable to add the judicial work of a Magistrate's office to the varied duties of Master Attendant. Moreover, it may not unfrequently happen, that the person best fitted to fill the office of Master Attendant would make an indifferent Magistrate.

"6. No good and sufficient reasons have been assigned for altering the present constitution of the pilot service. When vacancies occur, selections are usually made from the merchant service, and no one is admitted without an examination in seamanship. His Lordship in Council believes that, as a body, the pilots are most efficient. They enjoy the privilege of pension, and he is not aware that the pilots have reason to complain of inadequate remuneration, though he would gladly advocate an increase of their pay, if financial considerations admitted it.

"7. His Lordship in Council understands that a pilot brig is ordinarily stationed at the mouth of the harbour during the monsoon, to lead in ships making the port. The *Euphrates*, which has been under repair, will shortly be ready for this duty, and thus nothing remains to be done in respect to the sixth suggestion of the Chamber.

(True copy)

(Signed) "B. H. Ellis,
"Acting Secretary to Government."

Since the above decision, the Chamber has refrained from expressing any opinion upon the working of the present system, as, although they do not consider it a well advised arrangement, they think that it should have a fair trial, which can only be the case by allowing sufficient time to develop its results.

By the present system, the practical management of the port and pilotage service is vested in the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy; the Chamber, however, believe that it would be more conducive to the public interest if it

were entirely disconnected from that service, and established on a perfectly independent basis.

Holding these opinions, the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce deem it undesirable that a portion of the responsibility of the service, and that, perhaps, the most invidious portion, should be borne even in part by members of the mercantile body, as they have no share whatever in the appointment of the pilots, or in framing the rules that should govern their conduct. The Committee are of opinion that it would be best to leave the entire responsibility of their efficiency in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy, where it at present resides.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 21st November 1860.

No. 1001 OF 1860.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

To the COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of the INDIAN NAVY,
(with copy of Secretary's letter),
The COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS,
The SENIOR MAGISTRATE OF POLICE, and
The SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Letter from the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, No. 125, *dated the 21st November* 1860,

States, with reference to the question of a court of inquiry for the trial of pilots, that the Chamber is of opinion that it would be best to leave the entire responsibility of the efficiency of the pilots in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy.

Resolution of Government on the above.

Copy of the letter from the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce to be communicated to the Commander-in-Chief Indian Navy.

2. Complaints against pilots should be investigated by a court of inquiry, composed of one of the Magistrates of Police as president, and one of the Conservator's Department, and master of a merchant vessel, if obtainable.

3. The Governor in Council will be glad to receive a draft of such rules as the Commander-in-Chief Indian Navy may think needful in connection with the matter.

(Signed) W. F. MARRIOTT, Lieutenant Colonel,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 22nd December 1860.

No. 5 OF 1861.

To Lieutenant Colonel MARRIOTT,
Acting Secretary to Government, Marine Department,
Bombay.

SIR,—With reference to my letter No. 125 of 1860, I have the honor to address you again on the subject, by instruction of the Committee.

The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce having been given to understand that some misapprehension exists as to the precise meaning intended to be conveyed in their letter of 21st November, on the subject of the pilot service, and that they are reported to have recommended that the superintendence of that service should be placed in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy, I am instructed to inform you that such was very far from their intention, as their views, as well as the opinion of the Chamber at large, remain unaltered with regard to the desirability of a total severance of the business of the pilot service from that of the Indian Navy. The Committee consider that the present subjection of the Master Attendant to the control of the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy, and the necessity of constant references on subjects connected with his office, tend very greatly to impede the work of the department, and to diminish its usefulness to the mercantile marine interests of this port.

The opinion intended to be expressed in the concluding paragraph of my former letter was, that the Committee thought the responsibility ought to remain in the same hands to which Government have seen fit to commit the control of the department.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 22nd January 1861.

APPENDIX P.

MISCELLANEOUS.

IMPERIAL PASSENGER ACT.

No. 2066 of 1860.

General Department.

To the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

Sir,—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to forward to you the annexed printed papers, relative to the question of extending the provisions of the Imperial Passenger Act of 1855 to the carriage of passengers from India, and to request that the Chamber of Commerce will have the goodness to favor Government with any suggestions they may wish to offer on the subject thereof, should it be the opinion of the Chamber that legislative action in the matter would be desirable.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) A. D. Robertson,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 11th October 1860.

No. 137 of 1860.

To A. D. Robertson, Esq.,
Acting Secretary to Government, General Department,
Bombay.

Sir,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge your letter No. 2066 of 1860,

with enclosures, relative to the question of extending the provisions of the British Passenger Act to India, and requesting the opinion of the Chamber on the subject.

It seems to the Committee, from the statement of facts in the printed papers, that existing regulations as to the treatment of emigrants from India are not sufficiently stringent, and that additional protection to emigrants is called for. They would therefore suggest, that a legislative enactment on the subject should be passed, applicable to emigrants from India. With regard to the proposal that the English Passenger Act of 1855, 18 and 19 Vict., cap. 119, should be adopted, they think, that as the circumstances of the case in India are very different from those at home, and there is little or no probability of the emigration from this country of the poorer and more helpless classes who emigrate from England, all the restrictions of the English Act are not requisite, and would prove burdensome in an unnecessary degree; but that some modification of the English statute would be likely to answer every purpose,—taking for granted that the regulations as to Coolee emigration would continue, as at present, the subject of a separate enactment.

The English Act provides for the extension of its application to British colonial possessions; but for that purpose it enacts that the statute, as framed for emigration from England, shall be stripped of a great many of its clauses, leaving in fact only the framework of the Act which it is intended shall be filled up with regulations suitable to the local requirements of the several British possessions that may decide on adopting it. The Committee would suggest, that, for the protection of emigrants from India, and passengers generally, the British Passenger Act, in its skeleton form, should be adopted as the groundwork for an Act, of the Indian Legislative Council, and that additional clauses should be introduced, such as might be found suitable for local wants.

As it is not likely there will be any emigration from India of a class analogous to that found in the English emigration returns, consisting of families, and including women and children, and as, in all likelihood, emigrants will, for some time at least, consist almost exclusively of able-bodied men, as in the cases quoted in the printed papers, the Committee are of opinion that the regulations of the Act might with advantage bear some analogy to those at present in force for the

conveyance of troops by sea, which appear on the whole to work well, and to be suited to the wants of the class of passengers which such an Act is intended to protect.

The Committee learn with surprise, from the papers submitted to them by the Government, that the nature of present relations between this country and Australia is such, that a vessel leaving Calcutta, after having complied with the regulations of the port, and obtained her clearance in order, should, on arrival at her port of destination, be subjected to fine under a local law, of the provisions of which the captain could hardly be cognisant. Whatever regulations the Government may think fit to make for the protection of emigrants leaving these shores, the Committee would strongly urge that these should include an arrangement whereby vessels clearing for other British possessions should be held to have fulfilled their contract by carrying out these regulations, and should not be liable to be tried by the terms of a local enactment, with the provisions of which they cannot be expected to be acquainted, and which may, in fact, undergo alterations after the commencement of the voyage.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) ANDREW GRANT,
Chairman.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 5th December 1860.

CULTIVATION OF IMPHEE.

Abstract of Reports on the Cultivation of Imphee in the Bombay Presidency, for the Year 1860.

Reports on the experimental cultivation of imphee in 1861 having been received from nearly all the collectorates of Bombay, and having perused them with much interest, the Conservator of Forests has the honor to make the following observations.

2. In order to impress on the minds of all interested in the progress of agriculture in India the great importance of success in this matter, it seems necessary to bring to their notice, as a preliminary step, the very short interval (compared with sugar-cane) between the sowing of imphee and the extraction of the sugar, viz. about 100 days, while the

sugar-cane requires 420 days; therefore, imphee sugar can be produced at one-fourth of the labour and expense, and the ground left available for other crops.

3. Wherever these experiments on imphee have been successful, the result is conclusive, and cannot be invalidated by any argument.

4. But the same remarks will not equally apply to unsuccessful experiments: these are not conclusive against the plant, for many reasons.

5. A first failure might be attributable to several causes within control, as well as to unsuitable climate.

6. It is not by one experiment that the value of any new object of culture can be ascertained.

7. The nature of the plant may be imperfectly known; as, for instance, at Sholapore, the whitish powder which covers the imphee in a state of vigorous health was mistaken for a sign of disease, and probably after the discovery it was left to its fate.

8. Another probable cause of failure is thick sowing, and of this the Conservator has himself been an eye-witness.

9. In a field where imphee had been sown thickly, it was surprising to see the vast difference between those stalks which had a little room, and consequently a larger amount of food; instead of the plants being at least 2 feet distant from each other, 5 or 6 grew within one square foot, and it is scarcely necessary to add that they were diminutive, depauperated specimens. Another and more obvious cause of failure may be poverty of soil. A gramineous plant growing to the height of 9 feet and 3 inches diameter in 75 days, as was the case in the Khandeish experiment, demands a great amount of silicate of potash ready and fit for absorption.

10. The last probable cause of failure may have been an irregular or scanty supply of water.

11. All these are within the control of the cultivator, and, therefore, it would be premature to come to the conclusion, to which the majority of the reports lead, that it is not a desirable article of cultivation.

12. From what is known of the nature of imphee, as well as from the eminent success which has attended its cultivation in Upper Sind, the Conservator was prepared to hear most favorable accounts from Ahmedabad and Sholapore, places having a climate most nearly approaching to

Sind, and yet the reports from these collectorates are decidedly unfavorable, and lead to the supposition that the causes of failure may be obviated in future.

13. The favorable reports are from Belgaum, Sattara, and Khandeish.

14. At Belgaum the plant was luxuriant, 11 feet high, with excellent stalks, full of sweet juice.

15. At Sattara it reached a height of 8 feet, and was much appreciated by cattle, and 40 stalks made 1lb. of goor. From this amount of goor it is impossible to judge what a beegah would produce, without knowing what ground was occupied by 40 stalks. If the seed was as thickly sown as in the field alluded to above, it would only be surprising that they yielded any goor at all.

16. As the proportion of rind to pith increases with the size of the stalks in a multiple ratio, the great object is to grow them as large and thick as possible, which can best be done by sowing in drills.

17. In Khandeish the plants were 9 feet in height and 3 inches in diameter in 75 days from the time of sowing, but were said to contain little or no saccharine matter,—a singular circumstance in such vigorous plants, and which can be accounted for only by supposing an excess of water, or a very clouded sky, during the time of ripening.

18. All the other reports are said to be absolute failures.

19. As the imphee approaches most nearly to jowaree in habit and constitution, it would be a waste of labour to attempt its cultivation where jowaree will not succeed; but, for the reasons stated above, the Conservator would recommend that the experiments be repeated in all jowaree districts, and, if possible, on a larger scale.

20. It should not be allowed to grow near jowaree, with which it most readily hybridises.

21. The opinion of the late Conservator, as contained in the Ahmednuggur report, "that the imphee could not compete with the sugar-cane, as long as 16lb. of goor can be sold for 1 shilling," must be judged by the following facts.

22. The present price of goor in the Deccan is only 8lb. for a shilling.

23. A beegah of sugar-cane, after the protracted labour of planting, constant irrigation, and weeding, over a period of fourteen months, produces 1,500lb. of goor in the most

favorable circumstances, while imphee produces 500lb. in less than one-fourth of the time, and with one-fourth of the labour and expense; while the ground on which it grew may produce two other crops while the sugar-cane is still growing.

24. If the imphee is regarded simply as a forage for cattle of the most superior description, it is desirable to persevere in its cultivation.

25. In the report of the Poona experiment, it is stated that imphee kurbee went five times as far as ordinary kurbee. Imphee is now an established article of Sind cultivation, and will certainly be one of its finest products.

26. Irrigation is necessary wherever the rain is either scanty or irregular.

27. It is not wise to condemn the soil to give that which it produces at a disadvantage, at the expense of what it produces willingly.

28. It ought to be the aim of agriculturists to derive the most advantageous results from the forces of nature—to fight against them is the height of folly; but the Conservator is of opinion that these observations cannot yet with justice be applied to the cultivation of imphee, which should be experimented on still further, to establish its character, particularly in Guzerat, Kattywar, and the Eastern Deccan.

(Signed) N. A. DALZELL,
Conservator of Forests, & Supt. Botanical Garden.

No. — OF 1861.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

Forwarded for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

(Signed) A. D. ROBERTSON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 22nd February 1861.

SEAMEN'S FRIEND ASSOCIATION.

To the CHAIRMAN of the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Ex officio.

SIR,—I am desired by the Committee of the Seamen's Friend Association to request you will be so kind as to accept the office of a Member of the Committee.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) W. P. MAIDMENT,
Secretary.

Bombay, 3rd January 1861.

No. 10 OF 1861.

To W. P. MAIDMENT, Esq.,
Secretary to the Seamen's Friend Association,
Bombay.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to inform you, in reply to your letter dated 23rd January, that the Chairman of the Chamber, in his official capacity, will be happy to accept the office of Member of Committee of your Association.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 30th January 1861.

TOUR THROUGH THE COTTON DISTRICTS.

To the CHAIRMAN of the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR,—On the 30th ultimo I had the pleasure of laying before your Committee a full account of the tour I had just taken through some of the cotton districts, and now I beg to wait upon you with a condensed report upon it.

I left Bombay on the 26th April, and returned upon the 24th May. I left under the impression that I was to accompany some Government officer, but finding afterwards that this was not the case, I purposed striking across coun-

try in a north-easterly direction from Barsee to Oomrawuttee, through Jaulnah, and returning to Bombay *via* Khandeish.

I did not, however, succeed in getting beyond Yeat, owing to the contumacy of the authorities there; and in consequence I struck off to the west, and going by Sonarry, joined the rail at Jewoor, and so returned to Bombay.

The season was too far advanced to permit me to see anything of cotton cultivation; but large tracts of country are of that deep black soil which is so well adapted to it, and in which, it was reported to me, no cotton is attempted to be grown.

Such samples as I saw, whether of cotton in the uncleaned state, or of the remains of cotton plants in the ground where it was grown, were wretched in the extreme; suggestive of an utter want of care in any selection of seed for sowing.

This appeared to me attributable to two causes:—*First*, from the wretched description, if not utter absence, of roads, compelling the cultivators to prefer a crop which has a market near at hand, such as the grain crop; and, *secondly*, the great difficulty attending the endeavour of a European to visit these localities for the purpose of persuading them to adopt better modes of culture.

In addition to the ordinary difficulties of such an endeavour, independent of the expense and loss of time, there is the passive resistance and obstinacy of many of the village patels and mamlutdars, who do not render that assistance which they ought. In my own case, the mamlutdar of Yeat, after receiving instructions to assist me, left the place without doing so; and the patel would not, under the plea that he could not.

As, without assistance from the patel, I must either forcibly take what I required in the shape of carts from the cultivator, whenever I found one, or return to Bombay, I preferred the latter; fully persuaded that the former course is frequently forced upon officers travelling, and makes one great cause of ill feeling between the Native and the European. Before leaving, however, I gave him fully to understand that I threw on his shoulders the whole responsibility, by thus bringing my journey to a termination, and that it should be reported to his superiors.

The same opposition I met with in the villages of Androor and Lipany.

In addition to these obstacles in the way of improved or extended cultivation, I may mention the levy of *transit dues by the Nizam* on all produce which crosses the Seena river; and as this river bounds a part of his dominions, and stands between the town of Barsee and our railway, the whole of that traffic is under an obligation to pay these *heavy dues*.

I met with the same thing at a village called Doneghaum, on the Seena, levied on everything that comes from the English village called Sonarry.

During the short visits which a European is able to make to these districts, the good he might establish is greatly interfered with by the almost impossibility of his being able to obtain correct information, owing to the diversities of the weights and measures in use, whether those of produce or of land.

On this point, however, I shall address the Chamber separately, as well as upon one or two points not strictly connected with cotton cultivation, but which tend to increase the difficulty of bringing into close and frequent contact, the cultivator on the one hand, and the consumer of his produce on the other,—or, which amounts to nearly the same thing, his Indian agent.

Before concluding, I may remark that a great reform is needed in Bombay itself in the whole system of cotton purchasing and shipping. The state of the bunders, the cotton green, the presses, the style of contracts, the want of accommodation, all require remedying, though to enter into the detail of the manner in which I think this reform should be effected would occupy too much of your time at present, and I shall therefore defer it until the Chamber or the Committee are prepared to go into the matter fully.—Meanwhile I remain, &c.,

(Signed) W. C. Sillar.

Bombay, 4th June 1861.

LIST OF PAMPHLETS AND PAPERS received by the Chamber of Commerce during the Year 1860-61.

No.	TITLES.	Received from
1	Stamp Duties Bill	Government.
2	Customs Consolidated Bill	Ditto.
3	Breach of Contracts Bill	Ditto.
4	Customs Revenue Report, Year ending 30th April 1860 ..	Commissioner of Customs.
5	Customs Report, Year ending 30th April 1861	Ditto.
6	Sind, External Trade of	Collector at Kurrachee.
7	New Zealand, Trade of	Government of New Zealand.
8	Cotton Cultivation, Report on	Colonel Davidson.
9	Tariff of Calcutta	Government.
10	Cotton Cultivation in the Punjaub	Ditto.
11	Imphee Cultivation	Ditto.
12	Landholders' and Commercial Association, Report of	Calcutta.
13	Timber Trade, Memorial to Government on	Rangoon.
14	Overland Mail Service, Mr. Riddell's Report on	Government.
15	Kurrachee Harbour, directions to approach	Ditto.
16	Basses, dangers in the vicinity of the	Colombo.
17	Penal Code, Indian	Government.
18	British India, General Report of the Administration of	Ditto.
19	Trade in the North-West Provinces, Report on	Colonel R. Baird Smith.
20	Famine do. do. in 1860-61, Report on ..	Ditto.

21	French Tariff, Treatise on	Bordeaux Chamber.
22	New Taxes, English version of	Calcutta.
23	Paper Currency, Indian	Ditto.
24	Collisions at Sea, Law of	J. T. Danson, Esq.
25	Paper Currency for India	H. Nelson, Esq.
26	Financial Statement	Honorable Samuel Laing.
27	Tanjore Ranee's address to John Bruce Norton, Esq., Report of	Madras Native Association.
28	China Directory for 1861	Messrs. Shortrede & Co., Hongkong.
29	Cotton, qualities of East Indian and American	Glasgow Chamber.
30	Indian Ocean : Ceylon Hydrographic Notice	G. F. McDougall.
31	Sind Forests, Annual Report on	Government.
32	Africa, South Coast of, Report on	Master F. Skead.
33	Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Annual Report of	Chamber.
34	Sind, Hill Districts to the south-west of Mehur	Government.
35	Eastern Narra, Captain Fife's Report on	Ditto.
36	Rates of Assessment in the Tanna Collectorate	Ditto.
37	Sind, Abolition of Statute Labour in	Ditto.
38	Bordeaux Chamber of Commerce, Report of	Chamber.
39	Harbours of Refuge of the Malabar Coast, Report on	Cochin Chamber.
40	Customs Tariff	Bengal Chamber.
41	Cochin Chamber of Commerce, Report of	Chamber.
42	Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, Annual Report of	Ditto.
43	Telegraph from Constantinople to Kurrachee, Notes on	Sir Henry Rawlinson.
44	Bible Society, Report of	Society.
45	Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, Report of, 1860	Chamber.
46	Hull Chamber of Commerce, Report of, 1861	Ditto.
47	Colombo Chamber of Commerce, Half-yearly Report of	Ditto.

No.	TITLES.	Received from
48	Paper Currency, Scotus' Remarks on Mr. Wilson's Bill	Author.
49	Cotton Cultivation, Report on	W. C. Sillar, Esq.
50	Deep Water Pier for Bombay, Scheme for a	D. J. Kennelly, Esq.
51	Back-bay Reclamation, Graving, and Wet Docks, Scheme for ..	R. Fairbairn, Esq.
52	Bombay Geographical Society, Transactions of	Society.
53	Calcutta Agricultural and Horticultural Society, Journal of ..	Ditto.
54	Cotton Supply Association, Report of	Association.
55	Mutlah Association, Report of	Ditto.
56	Kurrachee Chamber of Commerce, Rules and Regulations of ...	Chamber.
57	Oudh Railway Company, Prospectus of	Company.
58	Liverpool East India and China Association, Report of	Association.
59	Collisions at Sea, brief Treatise on..	Charles J. C. Perry.
60	South Australian Chamber of Commerce, Report of	Chamber.
61	Madras Chamber of Commerce, Annual Report of	Ditto.

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